# Hundreds flee heavy fighting in Kudarat, Cotabato

Story on PAGE A2

## Inquirer's newsboy promo wins praise in US

By Volt Contreras

THE MARKETING campaign that recognized the important role of the humble yet hardworking newspaper peddlers in the success of Philippine Daily Inquirer has recently earned international praise.

The INQUIRER's "Newsboy Koolboy" promo won a citation last week from the

INQUIRER'S/A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
January 12, 2003 ★ 54 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 35 P15
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IN *Sunday Lifestyle*

- Woman of courage, substance /E1
- Whitest of snow-white parties /E2

# GMA seeks allies in LDP

**EXPLORATORY** talks with Sen. Edgardo Angara are not tied to constitutional change or "an offer of the Senate presidency," President Macapagal emphasized during the INQUIRER's one-on-one interview with her at the Palace last Thursday. VAL HANDUMON

## *President admits proposing coalition to Angara party*

By Amado Doronila

*(First of two parts)*

**PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo admitted in an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER that she had proposed to opposition leader, Sen. Edgardo Angara, to join a "government of national unity" through "some kind of a coalition."**

She told the INQUIRER that since the opposition would be part of the national unity government, "they will not be the opposition" any more.

In effect, this means, under the President's concept, that Angara and the party he heads (the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino), split themselves from other segments of the fractious opposition including the groups closely identified with former President Joseph Estrada.

The President told the INQUIRER she had held two exploratory talks with Angara on her proposed coalition.

The President said Angara "was agreeable" to the proposal.

The INQUIRER interviewed the President immediately after the vin d"honneur for the diplomatic corps on Jan. 9 and before a caucus with administration senators who asked her whether she had cut a political deal with Angara. The senator confirmed to the INQUIRER he met the President in early December before he flew to Spain for the Christmas holidays and on Jan. 7.

"There was no quid pro quo," the President said. "The subject of our meeting (was) we would work on getting together in some kind of a coalition, and so it is not tied to an offer of the Senate presidency."

The President laid out to Angara the basis for their coalition. She said she told Angara that if the opposition, of which Angara is the nominal head, joined the coalition, "it would be part of the national unity government.

That's what I would like. That's my proposal."

"All I can say is that there is no quid pro quo." the President said. "The bottom line is I'm trying to heal the divisions and I'm trying to have more allies and I will be very happy to have the LDP as an ally rather than an opposition."

Asked if she would not intervene if Angara made a move to unseat Senate President Franklin Drilon. "If they move, I don't want to talk about politics," she said." I did not withdraw (from the 2004 elections)" to reengage in politics."

She added: "I think the important thing is I can focus and that's why I am not focused on politics. I'm not focused on Senate politics. I am not focused on 2004 politics. I have my program and I even have my legislative agenda

GMA/A4

## Abadilla 5: DOJ orders torture probe

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has ordered the reopening of the preliminary investigation into claims of torture by the five men sentenced to death for killing ex-Col. Rolando Abadilla on June 13, 1996.

Acting Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez ordered Thursday the reopening of the complaint for human rights violations lodged by the five convicts against a police general and 25 others. The complaint was the subject of a special report by the INQUIRER last December.

According to Gutierrez, the complaint should be investigated because it is separate from the murder case up for review by the Supreme Court.

She issued a five-page resolution reversing the ruling of Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno, who dismissed the complaint in separate orders issued on Aug. 21 and Oct. 10, 2001.

"With respect to the issue of whether or not the panel is correct in dismissing the case without prejudice on the ground that it is covered by the sub judice rule, our answer is in the negative," said Gutierrez, who ordered Zuno to reopen the investigation within 10 days.

Under the sub judice rule, any tribunal or quasi-judicial bodies like the DOJ cannot pass judgment on a case pending with the high court.

But Gutierrez said Zuno should have given due course to the complaint because the "acts complained of" fell under the laws on grave coercion, arbitrary detention, delay in the delivery of detained

ABADILLA/A15

## 12:30 leaders' urgent call: Seize the moment

By Alcuin Papa

LAST two minutes. Seize the moment.

Using various analogies to connote urgency and the sense of time running out on the country, the scattered forces of Edsa II that helped install President Macapagal-Arroyo in power yesterday convened the Dec. 30 Movement—dubbed the "12.30"—in support of the President's reform agenda for the remaining 18 months of her term.

Amid calls to "seize the moment," some 400 delegates from different people's organizations, non-government and civil society groups assembled at the Ateneo de Manila University's Institute of Social Order to commit themselves to advancing Ms Macapagal's reform agenda.

"Others say it is already too late in the day. But we have to take advantage (of the President's initiative). We have to have a sense of urgency. We can still accomplish things," said Dan Songco, one of the organizers.

Songco headed the secretariat of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II (Kompil II), a network of civil society groups organized during the impeachment crisis of 2000 which helped bring down the government of ex-President Joseph Estrada.

"Like in basketball, we are on our last two minutes to move this country forward," said another of the movement's spokespersons, Chaco Molina.

"It's time for concrete action," said convenor Karen Tañada who represented the peace movement and women's issues.

Rick Samaniego, another organizer, said the public must follow the President's example in renouncing personal ambition for the good of the many.

"The citizenry should also make sacrifices. Good citizens should do their part," he said.

Molina was optimistic that "there is

12:30/A15

**BETTER** late than never. DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman speaks to 400 delegates from different people's organizations at the Ateneo's Institute of Social Order at the launch of the "12:30" on Saturday. DENNIS SABANGAN

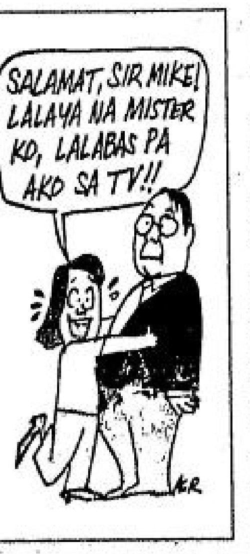
## *Mike A raises P5M for Pinoys in UAE prison*

By Leila B. Salaverria

THERE'S cause for hope for the wives, mothers and sisters who are moving heaven and earth to spring their menfolk from jail.

Their struggle to free the 23 seamen still held behind bars in Abu Dhabi for a crime of which they have been cleared has caught the attention of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband,

MIKE A/A4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KR

## Nun shuns fame, fortune to be one of the Mangyans

By Madonna Virola
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

BULALACAO, Oriental Mindoro—For the Mangyan, she turned her back on the opportunities for name, fame and money that come with being part of a prominent family.

Now, at 72, Sister Maggiorina Nazareno Arenas proudly said: "I am not the Mangyan's *gabay* (guide) anymore but really one of them." It is her 26th year of living with the indigenous people in this town in the southernmost part of Oriental Mindoro.

This recipient of the Mother Teresa Award—named after the nun who spent her life caring for others in the slums of Calcutta—heeded an unusual call and journeyed to where she thought her work would be most meaningful.

She left the convent of the Daughters of St. Paul, where she had been serving a "higher" role, and came to the mountains of Bulalacao to work with the Mangyan Mission Integrated Program.

Her missionary work involves a literacy program, values formation as well as community health, organizing and livelihood programs, and includes assisting Mangyan claims for ancestral land.

The work may be arduous but there is room for happiness for

NUN/A15

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/01/12/03

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Partly Cloudy | **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Baguio** | Partly Cloudy | **Roxas** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Tuguegarao** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cebu** | Partly Cloudy |
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| **Clark Zone** | Partly Cloudy | **Gen. Santos** | Cloudy with Rains |
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| **Legazpi** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Calapan** | Partly Cloudy | **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains |

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# Second FRONT PAGE

# Hundreds flee amid heavy fighting

## Conflicting claims: AFP says 20 Moro rebels killed; MILF says 10 soldiers dead

**COTABATO CITY—More villagers evacuated their homes yesterday to escape fresh fighting between government troops and Moro separatists in Sultan Kudarat, officials said.**

About 350 families, or some 1,750 people, have fled Polomolok in Sultan Kudarat and Tulunan town in adjacent North Cotabato, where government artillery and helicopter gunships have pounded heavily armed guerrillas since Thursday, said regional Army spokesperson Maj. Julieto Ando.

The shelling continued on Friday and government ground forces met stiff resistance as they approached Polomolok, Ando said. Quoting villagers, he said six guerrillas have been killed and 17 wounded.

But Col. Cardoso Luna, commander of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade based in Sultan Kudarat, said at least 20 rebels have been killed in the clash.

The gunmen are believed to be members of the notorious Pentagon kidnap gang that allegedly sought refuge in an area occupied by Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels.

Ando said the fighting began on Friday when troops arrived in Colombio town near Polomolok to search for members of the Pentagon gang.

About 70 Pentagon gang members opened fire on the troops, prompting the soldiers, backed by helicopter gunships, to launch a major assault, Ando said.

The gang fled to a nearby MILF camp. MILF fighters began firing at the pursuing troops in support of the Pentagon gang, Ando said.

He said the MILF and Pentagon gunmen occupied the villages after forcing residents to leave at gunpoint on Wednesday. He said the military operation was intended to drive away the rebels to allow the villagers to return to their homes.

Richard Abo, the village chief of Kalibong in Tulunan, said he waited until daybreak yesterday before evacuating about 150 families. He said the villagers took their farm animals and produce as they fled toward a highway on their way to the Tulunan town center.

"Mortars and rockets were flying very near our homes (on Friday)," he said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied guerrillas had been killed but said three were wounded.

"The truth is, the Army suffered 10 fatalities and scores wounded. Only three of our fighters were injured and we have no casualties. Why would we not tell the truth? It's an honor for us to die fighting," he said.

He also denied the Pentagon gang had entered guerrilla areas, saying the military was using it as an excuse to attack the rebels in violation of a 1997 ceasefire.

The Pentagon gang, which has kidnapped foreigners on Mindanao, has been included on a United States list of terrorist organizations.

Kabalu warned the fighting could escalate if a ceasefire panel does not intervene.

"This will be war because we cannot do anything but defend ourselves and defend our position," he said, adding the military should have filed a complaint to initiate an investigation that kidnappers had entered rebel areas.

He accused the military of using the Pentagon issue to justify the operations.

"They should have told us that the Pentagon was in the area and that they want us to help them arrest them. This is a clear violation of our agreements," Kabalu said.

The government and the MILF signed a ceasefire agreement in 2001 to pave the way for peace talks, but sporadic clashes have persisted.

Aside from the truce, the government and the MILF also agreed to cooperate in a campaign against criminal groups, including the Pentagon.

Kabalu said there had been no evacuation prior to the attack.

Army Col. Agustin Dema-ala said the soldiers "do not have the luxury of time" to coordinate with the government-MILF ceasefire panel.

"We are not attacking the MILF because of the ceasefire agreement but the bandits sought refuge in MILF-identified areas, so we have to pursue them," he said.

Both Ando and Luna admitted that none of the bodies of the slain rebels have been recovered. Luna said the military's casualty figures were based on radio conversations between the rebels, which had been intercepted by the military. *AP, AFP and Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Senase and Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Tacurong blast suspect freed

**By Aquiles Z. Zonio**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TACURONG CITY, Sultan Kudarat—Police freed on Friday the main suspect in the Dec. 31 explosion that killed at least nine people and injured 43 others.

Supt. Norberto Batislaong, chief of the Task Force Talakudong, said he turned over the 16-year-old suspect to the custody of his parents. But Batislaong provided the boy with a security escort, a policeman-neighbor of the family, in the wake of the reports that relatives of the bombing victims were out to get him.

On Thursday, some 400 protesters urged police to immediately release the teener.

Last week, police filed multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder charges against the suspect, who was among those injured when the grenade exploded.

But Benjamin Fajardo Jr., the suspect's lawyer, told the INQUIRER that the City Prosecutor's Office was still studying whether the police have probable cause to file the charges.

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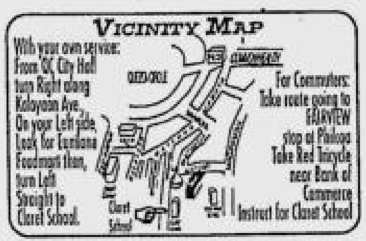
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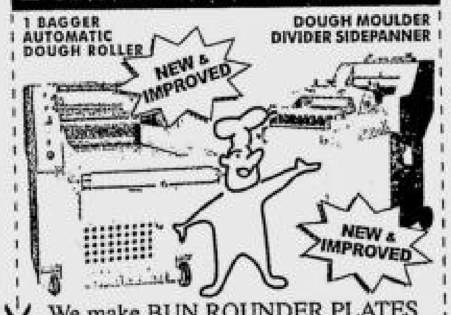
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# Be very careful, Americans in RP told

AMERICANS need to be very careful in the Philippines and should not travel to some regions at all because of terrorist threats, the US State Department said on Friday.

It updated travel warnings issued in November and said the advisory would stay in place until July.

"The terrorist threat to Americans in the Philippines remains high," the State Department said in a statement.

"In the aftermath of the October 2002 terrorist bombings in Bali, Indonesia, the State Department is concerned that similar attacks may occur in other Southeast Asian nations, including the Philippines, because extremist groups present in Southeast Asia, such as Jemaah Islamiyah, have demonstrated transnational capabilities to carry out attacks against locations where Westerners congregate," it added.

"Terrorist groups do not distinguish between official and civilian targets." Several bombs have either exploded or been disarmed in Manila in recent months, the warning noted.

"Philippine authorities have confirmed they have put into place extra security measures to deter possible terrorist attacks and to protect the public, including resident and traveling foreigners," it added.

"US citizens are warned to avoid all travel to the central, southern and western areas of Mindanao, including Zamboanga City and General Santos City, due to incidents of kidnappings, bombings, and other violence and criminal activity," the statement read.

"US citizens should also avoid travel to the islands of Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, and Jolo, located in the Sulu archipelago in the extreme southwest of the Philippines." *Reuters*

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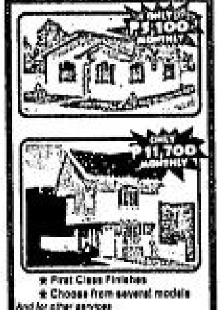

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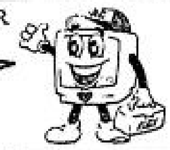

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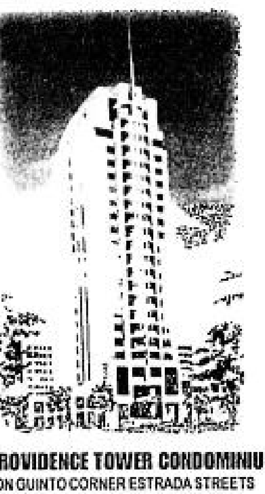

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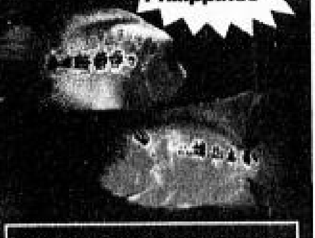

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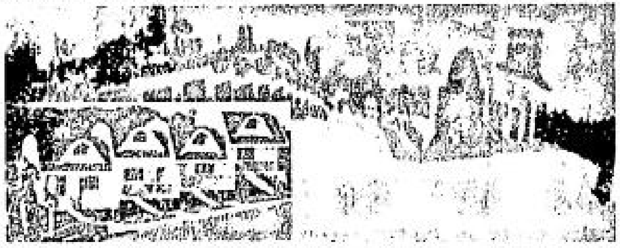

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# Viña mediating slay case of 2 cops

By TJ Burgonio

SENIOR Supt. Teofilo Viña was mediating a homicide case allegedly involving two ex-police officers days before he was gunned down in Tanza, Cavite, on Jan. 7, police officials said yesterday.

The case involved ex-policeman Renato Josue Arenas, an eyewitness to Viña's killing who has gone into hiding, and another former colleague who was identified only as Ambion, according to Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police director.

Arenas, who was facing a homicide charge in the case, had flown in from the United States on Dec. 30 to settle things with the victim's family. He had offered them a P200,000 indemnity, but the family was demanding P300,000, Rosales said.

"So he (Arenas) asked Viña to be the go-between to amicably settle the case," Rosales said in a phone interview.

The Cavite police are looking for Arenas to shed light on Viña's killing. Arenas, the godfather of alleged gunman Medar Cruz, went into hiding shortly after the crime. Of the eyewitnesses, he was the only one who has not surfaced.

Last Friday, he sent feelers to the police through Cavite local officials that he would surface within 48 hours, Rosales said.

"We'll see if he surrenders in that period. Otherwise, we'll hunt him down because he's now on our wanted list. If he doesn't surface, we'll consider him a suspect in the case," he said.

The Cavite police have asked the Bureau of Immigration to place Arenas on its hold departure list to prevent him from slipping out of the country. He had been on the bureau's watchlist.

Police wondered how Arenas had managed to go to the United States despite the homicide case. They theorized he assumed another name when he fled to the US a few years ago after being implicated in the killing of Ambion.

Arenas' testimony is considered vital in the Viña case because apart from having witnessed the shooting, it is believed he knew Cruz when both were in the US.

Arenas arrived in the country three days after Cruz, the alleged gunman, flew in also from the US on Dec. 27.

As of Saturday, investigators had not gotten Cruz to reveal why he killed Viña. The two supposedly first met in the summer of 2000 at Cruz's home in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Cruz has maintained his innocence since being nabbed shortly after the killing. He has been charged with murder and illegal possession of firearms.

Reportedly without provocation, Cruz pumped eight bullets into Viña in the presence of other people, including his father, at the home of Councilor Flaviano Satsatin in Tanza last Tuesday night.

# *Lacson says Berroya charges are old hat*

NOTHING but old lies.

This was how Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson described allegations by Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya linking him to the killing of two women relatives of a kidnap gang leader. He also accused Berroya of having no respect for the dead.

"The problem with General Berroya is his bad habit of putting words in the mouth of dead persons so he can pursue his agenda of vilifying my name for propaganda purposes," Lacson said in a press statement.

Lacson said it was very convenient for Berroya to use dead persons like Senior Supt. Teofilo Viña and Supt. John Campos for his "sources" since these people can no longer confirm or deny his allegations.

"If indeed Viña made a confession about the Dacer-Corbito case, why did Berroya wait until Viña is dead before making the revelation to the media? Was it because Berroya found an opportunity to exploit Viña's death by weaving tales that again puts myself in a bad light?" Lacson asked.

Lacson said that after using Viña's alleged "confession" against himself, Berroya now tries to blacken the memory of the dead by telling malicious lies against Viña and even linking him to the disappearance of two relatives of the late Red Scorpion Group leader Alfredo 'Joey" de Leon.

"Berroya is lying to his teeth since everyone knows that Col. Viña was not a member of the defunct PACC-Task Force Habagat which went after De Leon," Lacson said.

Lacson said Berroya used the same tactic when he claimed that Campos was about to squeal on his former colleagues when he was shot dead by an assassin.

# Ping defaults $3-M handcuffs suit

THE SUPERIOR Court of California has ordered Sen. Panfilo Lacson to pay a Filipino businesswoman more than $3 million in damages over a botched P15.7-million handcuffs deal in 1996.

Judge Julie Conger, presiding judge of the Superior Court's Department 4, issued the one-page order on Friday, Jan. 10. Mediamen obtained a copy of the decision.

Conger, before the court issued the default judgment after Lacson failed to appear before the court to answer the complaint "despite repeated summonses."

The complainant, Blanquita H. Pelaez, was awarded $3,031,262 in damages, "with interest." She had filed the suit in California on the assumption, denied by Lacson, that he had dollar accounts in said state. She is believed to be an American citizen and resident of California.

The INQUIRER repeatedly tried to reach Pelaez, for comment, but she was unavailable.

Pelaez, manager of the B.H. Pelaez Enterprises, had filed a civil case against Lacson and 30 other John Does "for intentional interference with economic relationship, slander and emotional distress."

The case stemmed from the non-payment of 41,297 handcuffs ordered by the PNP in December 1996 from Smith and Wesson Co. of Arizona, with which Pelaez's firm was affiliated as supplier.

Pelaez received P9 million in advance from the government. In her suit filed on Dec. 10, 2001, Pelaez charged that Lacson had approached her in August 1999 and said he would approve payment of the balance if she promised to support his bid for the top post in the Philippine National Police. He was chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Task Force at the time.

Lacson was appointed PNP chief on Nov. 15,1999, and served in the post until January 2001, when then President Joseph Estrada was ousted by a people's revolt.

In September 2001, during a Senate hearing on his alleged dollar bank accounts abroad, Col. Mario Chan of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines—who led the investigating team—recommended that the PNP pay Pelaez the remaining amount that was due her from the handcuffs deal. Chan also recommended that the Office of the President be reimbursed the P9 million advance.

Lacson argued that paying Pelaez constituted graft, as the deal was a scam.

Upon the filing of Pelaez's suit three months later, the Superior Court in Alameda County issued the first of several summonses to Lacson, requiring a "typewritten response." Judge Conger said the defendant failed to comply with this, and with succeeding summonses. *TJ Burgonio*

# Air fares expected to soar with lifting of exemption

By Abigail L. Ho

AIRLINE companies will have to up their fares when their exemption on jet fuel importation taxes is lifted, the Department of Transportation and Communications said on Friday.

Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Valdez said the government could not give the companies any form of subsidy to cushion the impact of the taxes.

Fare increases were the only logical move for the airlines, Valdez told reporters following a news briefing. In the absence of safety nets, he said, "market forces will decide."

Two days earlier, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho instructed the Bureau of Internal Revenue to discontinue tax perks covering professionals, financial institutions and airlines.

Energy Industry Administration Bureau Director Zenaida Monzada said local oil players could fill the airlines fuel requirements "at reasonable prices."

Local flag carriers protested, saying the government's plan would be "a devastating blow" to the aviation industry.

"We're sympathetic to government's needs, (but) we can't afford the added cost," said Peggy Vera, Cebu Pacific Air's vice president for corporate planning and external affairs.

She said the Gokongwei-owned company would lobby with other "for government to reconsider."

In a separate interview, Philippine Airlines Inc. president and chief operating officer Avelino Zapanta said his company was "still studying" the situation. "Obviously, it will have an impact (on operations), but we want to know the extent."

# Gloria going to Rosario to fulfill promise to squatters

ROSARIO, Cavite—President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to return to Rosario, Cavite, on Monday to fulfill a promise she made last year to some 3,500 squatter families that they would become homeowners.

The President will distribute certificates of occupancy and the actual keys to 141 completed units out of 500 to beneficiaries of the "GMA Abot-Kayang Pabahay at Palupa" program of the Philippine National Oil Co. and its land development subsidiary, PNOC Management and Development Corp. (PNOC-MDC).

Thelmo Cunanan, PNOC president and PNOC-MDC chair, said the President's return visit to the project site is concrete proof of the administration's commitment to provide affordable housing to poor families.

Cunanan said under the P100-million housing program, beneficiaries pay a monthly amortization of only P990 for their housing units. This is much lower than the current rental rates of P1,500 to P3,000 in the area, Cunanan added.

Cunanan said the project was undertaken by virtue of President Arroyo's Executive Order No. 59 which mandated PNOC to develop and dispose of 25 hectares of its property for socialized housing to 3,500 informal dweller-households occupying the PNOC property in the old Filoil refinery site in Rosario, Cavite.

According to Cirilo S. Martinez, president and chief executive officer of PNOC-MDC, more than 25 hectares of the 118-hectare Filoil property was earmarked for the housing project.

He said the project is being implemented jointly with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC); the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP); National Housing Authority (NHA); the local governments of Rosario and Noveleta, Cavite, and non-government organizations in the area.

# GMA seeks coalition with LDP

From page A1

and I talked to Ed about that. We talked on how to handle some of the key legislation (caught in the legislative gridlock) and how to break the gridlock.

## Cabinet posts

The President said she offered a Cabinet post (which she did not identify) to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Angara's party mate.

"I don't want to specify what posts I offered because I don't want people who are occupying the posts to feel unwanted. If we can keep whatever posts I offered to Biazon off the record, it was coursed through Ed and Ed said Biazon prefers to stay in the Senate," the President said during the interview.

But Biazon himself confirmed last Wednesday that he had been offered the top posts at the Bureau of Customs, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the soon-to-be-formed Department of Housing.

Biazon declined all offers which were coursed through Angara. An authoritative source told the INQUIRER that Angara himself was offered the post of agriculture secretary. But Angara declined, saying, "I have been there before."

## No trade-offs

Angara says he believes that a coalition with the administration should start with confidence building based on programs rather than with trade-offs involving membership in the Cabinet.

In a separate interview, Angara told the INQUIRER that his idea of cooperating with the President was that it would be built on the foundation of programs composing a new national agenda. He said this was feasible, based on the experience with the Ramos administration. In this model, President Fidel Ramos, who was elected with only 25 percent of the vote, was able to forge a consensus with the other parties, including the LDP, which at the time commanded more seats in both houses of Congress than it has today.

## Consensual approach

This consensus-building approach led to the formation of Ledac (Legislative Executive Advisory Council), the mechanism that packaged priority and focused legislation, avoiding executive-legislative stalemates in Congress and enabling Ramos to push through key bills. This formula was responsible for allowing Ramos to break the energy crisis during the first year of his administration.

President Macapagal is pushing the Ledac concept. She has called a meeting of Ledac this month—a decision made during her Jan. 9 caucus with administration senators. But Angara, who's not a Ledac member, was not present in the meeting.

He had been made to understand that the President would call a summit of leaders to lay the ground for a national unity government. This did not go ahead. It made way for the reconvening of Ledac. Since Angara is not the minority leader in the Senate and he could seat only as an invited "observer," Ledac could sideline him.

WAITING for the President is no sweat for INQUIRER consultant and columnist Amando Doronila with champagne in hand in the company of Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye. VAL HANDUMON

## Gov't unity guidelines

In the interview, the President also took pains to explain the mechanisms through which the national unity government may be developed.

She said she has asked Secretary Silvestre Afable to draw up a concept paper for a government of national unity, based on these guidelines: "The unity government is not a government of personalities but a government in which the basis of unity is programs. So, the Cabinet Oversight Committee, headed by Secretary Alberto Romulo, came up with the conclusion that the council of state would be the embodiment of a unity government. Right now, the council of state, as I am conducting it, is an unstructured meeting that I conduct every so often with two former presidents, the vice president and the head of the opposition and the executive secretary. But it's going to be covered by an executive order with specific composition but much wider than it is now."

## Not new

Actually, the council of state is not a novel idea. It was set up as the highest advisory body during the Commonwealth presidency of Manuel Quezon, and carried over into succeeding presidencies. It was convened especially during crisis but more recent presidents had sparingly convened it. Ferdinand Marcos had little use of it. This accounts for the fact that some congressmen, with scanty reading in history, speak of it as if it were a novelty. As the President pointed out her father, Diosdado Macapagal, made use of the council of state.

In the interview, the President said that the council of state is not a compromise with Speaker Jose de Venecia's concept of a national unity government but it an alternative to it.

De Venecia's concept calls for forming a Cabinet composed of representatives of groups or sectors with varying political and ideological tendencies.

## Homogenous Cabinet

In rejecting De Venecia's concept, the President said. "My Cabinet has to be homogenous. They may be eclectic in terms of what sectors they represent but they must be homogenous in policy and in executing it. They are the extension of my personality, not my person, and so they must carry out my policy and my programs and they have to be homogenous. And if they are not homogenous with me, then, sad to say, they don't belong to the Cabinet."

Neither President Macapagal nor Angara mentioned constitutional change during the INQUIRER interviews with them. *(To be concluded tomorrow)*

# Mike A raises . . .

From page A1

who managed to raise P5 million for their cause.

Even show biz has shown interest, with producers quoting the figure of P100,000 for the movie rights to the life story of Fatima Agustin, their leader and spokesperson.

National Labor Relations Commission chief Roy Señeres said he had written Jose Miguel Arroyo to seek help for the prisoners, and that the First Gentleman came through with the money gathered from donations by fellow lawyers, friends and ex-classmates.

"The money is ready," Señeres told the INQUIRER. "We're just waiting for the Bank of Ras al-Khaiman to accept [it]."

The NLRC chief said he and Arroyo had spoken with UAE Ambassador Mohammad Ibrahim Al-Jowaid and asked for help in getting the bank to accept the Philippines' offer.

Negotiations with the bank, which is requiring P30 million in exchange for the men's release, are ongoing.

Agustin, meanwhile, is brimming with plans.

She told the INQUIRER, which broke the story of their struggle, that if the UAE bank agreed to accept the money for the men's release, she would use the P100,000 offered by producers to finance small businesses for the other women in the group.

Agustin, 37, is actually teetering on the brink of fame.

She said the producers had given her a free hand in selecting who would play her, her husband, and her friends in the proposed movie.

"I've chosen Maricel Soriano to play me, but I'm still thinking about who will play my husband," Agustin said.

She added that TV stations had also approached her for interviews, and that some TV shows wanted to feature her story as well.

The story is sufficiently moving.

In 2000, 30 Filipino seamen were clapped in an Abu Dhabi jail for supposedly defrauding a number of banks there. Seven have since been released.

Indian national Stanley Pereira has confessed to padding the men's bank loans and appropriating the extra amount for himself, but the 23 remain behind bars because the loans have to be repaid.

Back in the motherland, their wives, mothers and sisters managed to band together.

Led by Agustin and strengthened by the bonding that resulted from their almost daily meetings, the women worked various government agencies to plead their menfolk's cause.

Now they are fortified with hope.

Señeres quoted the First Gentleman as saying that if necessary, the NLRC chief should travel to Abu Dhabi and bring the seamen home.

# Ople to seek Iran assurance on oil supply

FOREIGN Secretary Blas Ople will hold talks with Iranian officials in Tehran next week aimed at ensuring a continuing oil supply in the event of war in Iraq, the government said yesterday.

Iran is the Philippines' second largest oil supplier after Saudi Arabia.

A statement from the Department of Foreign Affairs said the two countries are planning to establish an oil storage facility in the Philippines under a partnership between the Philippine National Oil Co. and the National Iranian Oil Co.

Ople is scheduled to meet Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazzi, Commerce Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari and Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh. The third meeting of the Philippines-Iran Joint Commission will take place in Tehran on Jan. 13-17.

Such meetings are held to discuss trade and investment, agriculture and fisheries, oil, energy, shipping, banking, drug control, environmental protection, science and technology, culture and sports. *AP*

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Presidency she remembers

THE PRESIDENT appeared to have won over even consistent critics like Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos. Marcos, one of the legislators present when the President spoke at the Philippine Stock Exchange Friday, praised the President for "commanding" legislators to stop talking about Charter change. She also lauded the President's policies, especially on the fast-tracking of the infrastructure programs and revenue-enhancing measures. "This is the presidency as I remembered it," Marcos, daughter of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, said in a statement. *Juliet L. Javellana*

### Stricter Aussie Embassy

AUSTRALIA said Friday it was instituting stricter visa application procedures at its embassy in Manila, which was shuttered for a month late last year due to fears of a terrorist attack. Applicants for travel papers into Australia will no longer be allowed to enter the mission premises without a prior appointment arranged through a call center, an embassy statement said. "Persons seeking services from the visa office will not be allowed to enter the embassy without a prior appointment," it said. Australia closed its mission in Makati City on Nov. 28, citing specific and credible threats of a terrorist attack by Muslim militants. Canada and the representative office of the European Union followed suit. The Australian Embassy said that from Jan. 6, applications for tourist or business visas must be lodged by way of a courier service, which will then collect and return the travel papers to them after seven working days. Previously, applicants were made to line up outside the embassy premises before being ushered into an upper floor waiting room and interviewed. *AFP*

### Mining firm staying put

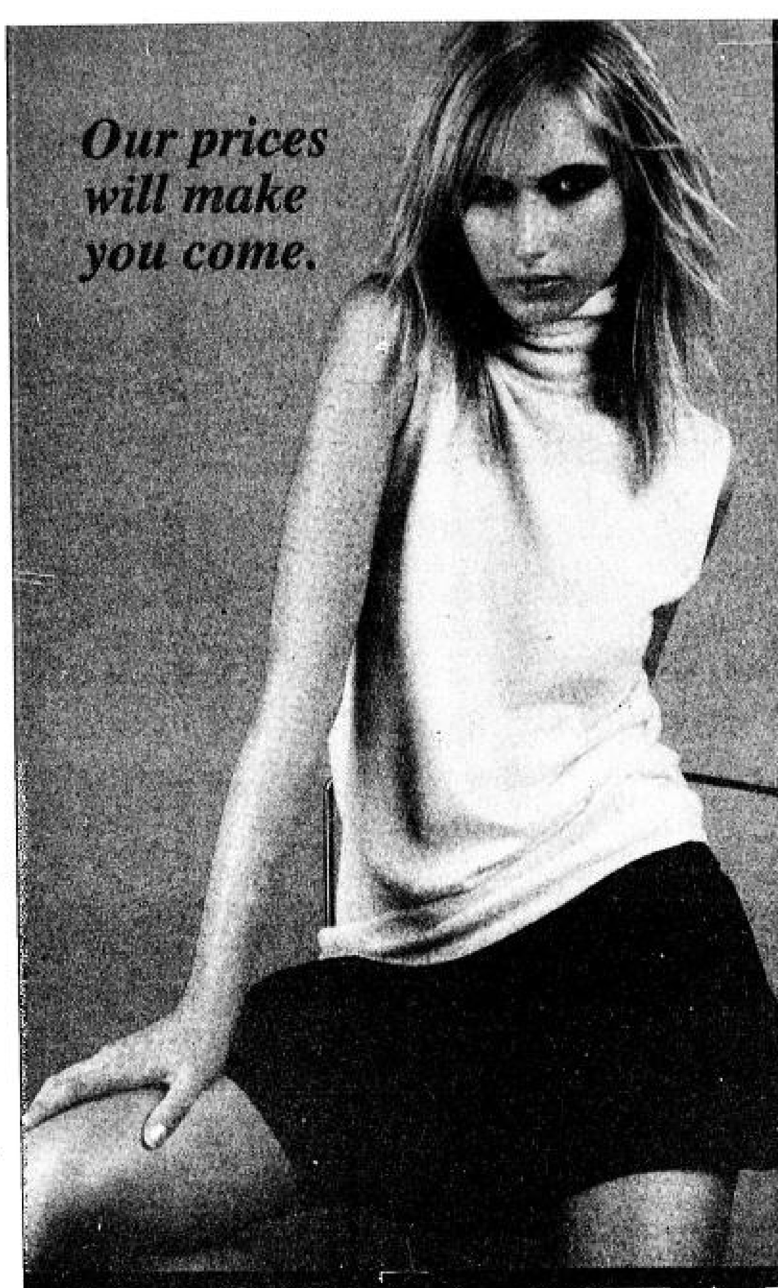
THE CANADIAN mining firm operating in Katanuan, Zamboanga del Norte, will continue its gold and silver operations in Mindanao despite an attack by Moro rebels that left some 13 persons dead on Dec. 26. Executives of the TVI Pacific Group of Companies decided to stick it out in Zamboanga del Norte after Southern Command chief General Narciso Abaya assured them that security will be beefed up in the mining town of Katanuan. "Without security, you can't have economic development," said Clifford James, chief executive officer of TVI, in a news conference Friday. James and other top executives of the mining firm are in the country to assess the viability of continuing operations in southern Philippines following after one of its vehicles was attacked by the Moro rebels over the holidays. *Norman Bordadora*

### Pyongyang move alarms RP

THE PHILIPPINES expressed concern over North Korea's decision Friday to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), and said Pyongyang should not set conditions for reversing its action. "We reiterate our call for the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) to abandon its current actions that point toward a nuclear weapons program and to implement its safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency," Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said. "We call on the DPRK to reverse its decision and not to impose any conditions on its further implementation of its legal obligations," he said in a statement. The Stalinist state stunned the world on Friday by announcing it was withdrawing from the NPT, dramatically deepening a crisis with the United States and drawing international condemnation. *AFP*

### 'Sleeping with the enemy'

SOME labor groups may call it sleeping with the enemy, but the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines prefers to brand it "coalition for national renewal." The TUCP, along with a broad bloc of labor groups, has formed an alliance with the business sector, led by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said the alliance was created to draft a common agenda for national unity and urge politicians to stop being so absorbed in their ambitions for 2004. "Year 2003 is not the time to bring out our swords and have our traditional fights. It is the time to help preserve jobs and save businesses," Aguilar said. *Blancho S. Rivera*



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INQUIRER

*Vol. 18 No. 35*
*ISSN 0116-2642*

# OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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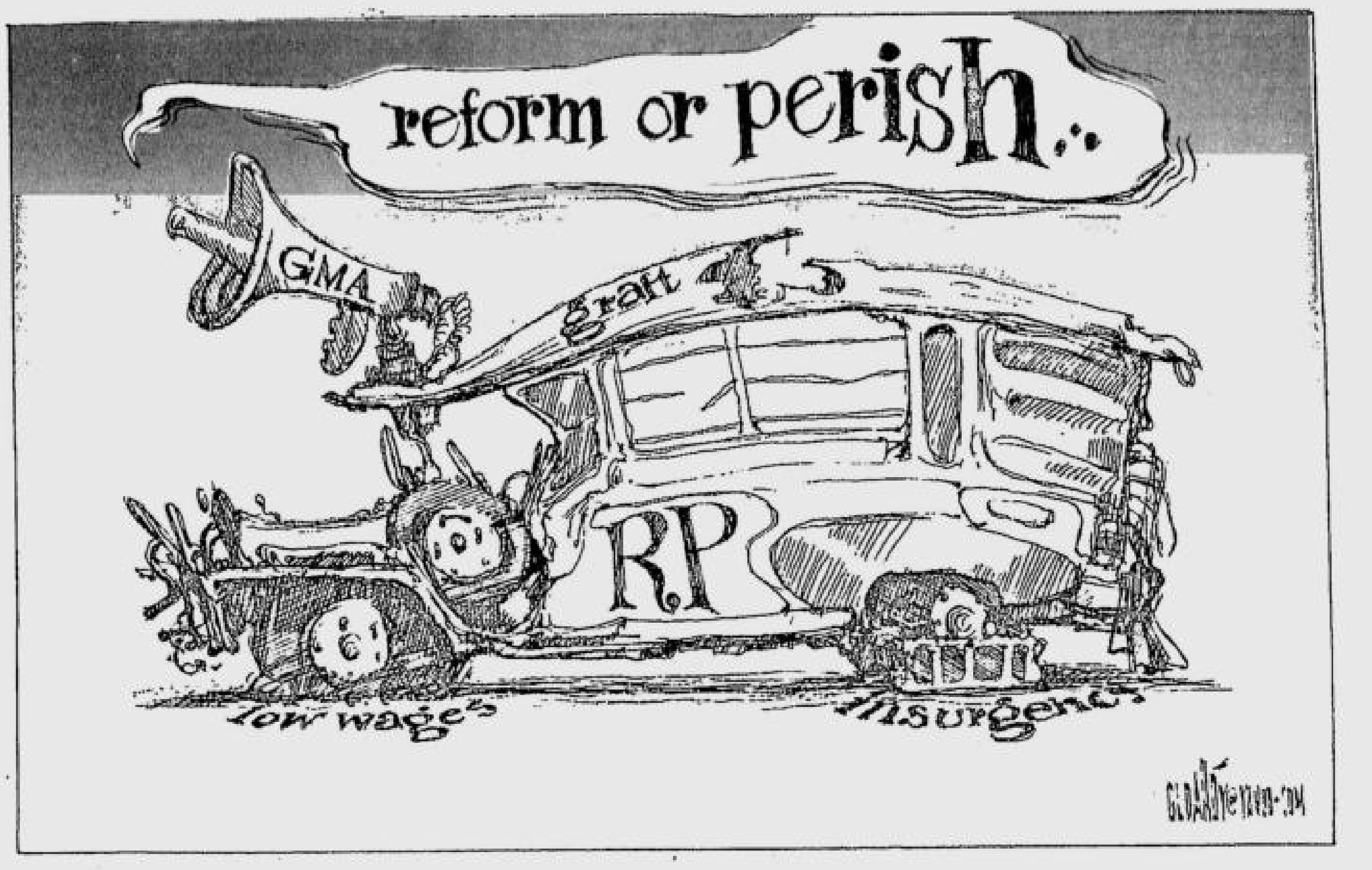

# Do or die

AT LAST week's traditional New Year's reception for the diplomatic corps, the President used undiplomatic language to tell the nation the blunt truth. "This nation is at a crossroads. Quite simply, it must reform or perish," President Macapagal-Arroyo said on Thursday. "There can be no falling back... Either this country moves forward or dies."

**EDITORIAL**

Politicians usually use dramatic language to lend import to their programs or pronouncements. An income-generating community undertaking is no longer a livelihood project, but a campaign in the "war on poverty." Or a new high-rise for government employees becomes a "revolution in housing." Was the President—attacking once again a culture of endless politicking—engaged in nothing more than political advertising?

We think not. She was merely speaking the truth: Divisive politics will first divide the nation, and then kill it.

Last year, on the day of the President's second State of the Nation Address, we wrote: "a palpable sense of despair hangs over the nation: it is the heavy sword, not of civil war, but of uncivil politics." We encouraged the President to begin her address before the joint session of Congress "by acknowledging the somber public mood." We pointed to the "true background" of the Sona: "growing public unease over the country's direction, and growing public disenchantment with the promises and processes of democracy."

The sense of despair still hangs in the air, like a cloud of gunpowder the morning after New Year's eve, but the President's decision last Dec. 30 to withdraw from the 2004 elections has helped to clear the air. The knee-jerk reaction of politicians and news organizations to her decision—a scramble to determine which candidate will run in her place—did not surprise the public; it merely confirmed that the haze of uncertainty that hovers above us is fueled largely by the worst form of air pollution imaginable: toxic political emissions.

Her Jan. 9 address before the ambassadors of other nations has helped lift the smog some more. Ms Macapagal used some of the starkest language heard in Malacañang since the days Ferdinand Marcos fulminated against the oligarchs, but she did it deliberately. (She even used an unlikely occasion, that of the traditional vin d'honneur, to broadcast her message, once again employing the element of surprise that worked so well last Rizal Day.) "By stepping off the political stage in 2004, I take a step higher in the office I still keep, and thereby command a wider allegiance to the policies and projects needed to improve our country," she said. "It will profit me nothing if I succeed. But my successor will inherit a country that is in a better position to complete its rebuilding. I sow; my successor reaps. This is the majesty of democracy."

But if she fails, the consequences may well be fatal for the country's experiment in both democracy and nationhood. This is what is new in her speech. She has developed the theme of personal sacrifice and difficult personal choices which she used in her Dec. 30 shocker into something collective, national: "In the vision that guides my administration, I see a country liberated from the grip and greed of the past. I see this happening through a revolution in the way we think and in the way we do politics and economics," she said. "At the center of this revolution must be a commitment to reforms and to putting the people first."

In other words, the culture of endless politicking has not only driven her to renounce a run in 2004; it has also driven the country right to the very edge. Now that she has everyone's attention, the President must begin to be specific.

# North Korea, not Iraq

IT is not Iraq, but rather North Korea, which currently provides an instructive illustration of the consequences of the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

US President George W. Bush, commander of the world's strongest and proudest army, had to say meekly that he is seeking a diplomatic and peaceful solution with the regime in Pyongyang, which has thrown out inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency. Just months ago, North Korea—along with Iraq and Iran—was counted as a member of the "axis of evil" along with Iraq and Iran.

**FOREIGN COMMENT**

If President Bush—like his predecessor—uses threatening military gestures or attempts an intervention, then Kim Jong-il would have a terrifying instrument with which to strike back.

*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitun (Frankfurt, Germany)*

# Quiet victories

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

TWO dear friends of mine passed away recently, and I am diminished by their loss. One was an outstanding public official who sent an example of integrity and dedication to duty. The other was a humble physician known only in medical circles and to his many patients and students. For both of them, service to the public was a badge of honor.

Jose S. Laurel III passed away on Jan. 6 after a lingering illness. His body was immobilized in a wheelchair for many months but his mind remained clear and acute until his death. He left behind his lovely wife, our Tita Betty, and a brood of children all successful in their respective fields.

Ambassador Laurel was the second son of President Jose P. Laurel Sr. and the brother of Speaker Jose B. Laurel Jr., Sen. Sotero H. Laurel and Vice President Salvador H. Laurel. Like his two deceased brothers Mariano and Arsenio, he never sought elective political office. Nevertheless, he was actively involved in politics because not only of his family orientation but also his own sense of civic duty.

The only time he accepted political office was when he was appointed Philippine ambassador to Japan in 1966. As such, he accomplished much in promoting Philippine-Japanese friendship and erasing much of the rancor engendered in our people by the Japanese Occupation. President Corazon Aquino later conferred on him the Sikatuna Award in commendation of his efforts toward these ends.

Unlike his other brothers Teroy and Doy, who took post-graduate courses in the United States, the 20-year-old Pepe was enrolled by their father in the Imperial Military Academy of Japan, where he learned the rigorous discipline of Japanese military life. This was done upon the suggestion of President Manuel L. Quezon, who foresaw the importance of Japan in Asian affairs and wanted somebody to advise him on the ways of that country.

The young student must have been useful in this assignment when, as a lieutenant and later captain in the AFP, he served as aide to the ailing President. Many were the interesting experiences he must have shared with him about that foreign land. There were some instances, he was also fond of relating, when he had to bodily carry Quezon to his bedroom after an evening of excessive activity.

Ambassador Laurel was the managing partner of the Laurel Law Offices when I joined it as a senior partner in 1972 after my resignation as chair of the Code Commission. I appreciated the way he welcomed me and made me feel as if I were a special friend and colleague. He was a perfect gentleman. The last time we met was at the book-launching last year of Doy's "Through Ordeal and Turmoil," which he dedicated to his Kuya Pepe.

Hector M. Santos was not as prominent because he lived in a different ambience. He was my brother Virgilio's high school classmate and became a friend of our family during the Japanese Occupation. After graduating from the UST college of medicine, he started his career in the North General Hospital (now renamed the Jose C. Reyes Memorial Hospital), where he rose from the ranks to become chief of clinics. He also taught at the FEU college of medicine. In recognition of his professional and administrative abilities, he was promoted to the position of Director of the Quirino Memorial General Hospital.

I especially mourn Hector's death because he was the personal physician of my parents and later of my elder brother. All of them were bedridden with terminal ailments, and Dr. Santos took care of them, visiting them almost daily from his house a few blocks from ours in Sampaloc, Manila. He usually came on foot and afterwards rode a jeepney to take him to the North General Hospital on Rizal Avenue. Despite his long government service, he never owned a car. He used public transportation all his life unlike some of his colleagues who probably worked less and earned more.

With all his talents and experience, Dr. Santos could have easily obtained a fellowship to the United States and become a diplomate in his chosen field, where he could have earned considerable income and more prestige. He might even have stayed abroad and established a lucrative practice there. But that was not my friend Hector's thing. He preferred to stay here in his native land and work his fingers to the bone in the service of his countrymen, especially the indigent patients he treated in the government hospitals.

When our parents died within four days of each other, we decided to show our appreciation for Hector by giving him a watch and a cash honorarium. He accepted the watch with thanks but not the money. "If you consider me your brother," he said, "why are you paying your brother?" I meant to visit him last month but never found the time, and last Tuesday I learned that my friend had gone.

Ambassador Jose S. Laurel III and Dr. Hector M. Santos served the public each in his own way but both of them quietly. They have shown that, to be great, life need not be spent with trumpets and drums, but with the silent joy of work selflessly and well done.

# Stay on the road of sacrifice. . .

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

SOMEONE once asked: What is the smallest handcuff in the world? A wedding ring!

* * *

A wedding ring can be seen as a handcuff, or a reminder of a commitment. The Gospel for today (Mk 1:7-11) is about the Baptism of the Lord, to remind us also about our own baptism, our commitment to "renounce Satan," and to live lives pleasing to the Father. By virtue of our baptism, we have been privileged to become "sons and daughters in the Son." But along with the privilege comes the responsibility to the Church and to the Kingdom of God. May the Baptism of the Lord remind us all that we are privileged. Yes, let us rejoice and celebrate our baptism, but may it also remind us of our task, our mission in this world.

Let us not become like many of our politicians who are all perks and privileges without responsibilities and sacrifice.

* * *

I am glad that people nowadays are talking of the word "sacrifice." Time was when "sacrifice" was taboo and unheard of. President Macapagal-Arroyo hit the nail on the head when she sacrificed her political ambitions for the sake of the nation. In one stroke, in one selfless act of sacrifice, she made holy (*sacri*—holy, *facere*—to make) her life and person. Because of her sacrifice, she graduated from being a politician (one who works for the next election) to that of a statesman/ stateswoman (one who works for the good of the nation). May there be more who will follow her footsteps. Wanted: more men and women with a deep sense of commitment and sacrifice for the good of our nation.

* * *

By virtue of our baptism, all of us should take the road of sacrifice, the long, difficult, narrow and winding road that leads to meaningful life pleasing to the Father.

The road of sacrifice. Very few take it. Many would rather take the road of comfort and pleasure. It is a road that is easy, wide, well-paved and straight—straight to hell. What road are you in right now? And who are your companions on the road? Where are you heading to? The Lord has shown us the way. The Lord has shown us the truth. The Lord has shown us the life. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Let us follow Him on the road of sacrifice. With sacrifice, life won't be easy, but with sacrifice you can't go wrong.

* * *

One person who lived a life of sacrifice was Fr. Alois Lehberger, SVD who died at the age of 92 after spending 65 years in the Philippines as a Divine Word missionary. He left his beloved Saarland, West Germany in 1938 to serve in the Philippines as a seminary professor and formator. One can never start to imagine how many bishops, priests and religious have been trained by this simple, humble and self-effacing priest. He did not do extraordinary things in his lifetime. He just did ordinary things with much love, sacrifice and joy. He was a man of prayer who rose very early to be at the chapel to be with his God and Father. Here was a man who chose and who stayed on the road of sacrifice till the very end.

* * *

Jan. 15 is the Feast of the Blessed Arnold Janssen, soon to be Saint Arnold Janssen! With great joy, we the Arnoldus Family (The Society of the Divine Word, the Holy Spirit Sisters, the Pink Sisters) received the news about the upcoming canonization of our founder along with our first missionary to China, Joseph Freinademetz. Against many odds, and with much diligence and sacrifice, Arnold Janssen founded the SVD in 1875 which now has about 6,000 members serving all over the world so that "the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all." One of the last countries he personally sent Divine Word missionaries as superior general in 1909 was to the Philippines.

Today, 94 years later, we take pride in the fact that our present superior general is a Filipino in the person of Fr. Tony Pernia, SVD from Bohol. We rejoice in their inspiring and beautiful lives. Needless to say, beautiful lives don't just happen. They are made, every single day, with much love, prayer and sacrifice. Want to live a beautiful and meaningful life? Make a decision, every day, to stay on the road of sacrifice. Don't change lanes. Let not the lure of the fast and easy lane get you. The bottom line is that we live our lives not to please people but to please the Father, and be able to make it back to the Father.

* * *

Over the weekend, we also said goodbye to Daddy Francisco Viray, husband of the late Mommy Felicidad Viray of the BIR. They lived exemplary lives as parents and public servants. The road of sacrifice is not the monopoly of saints and martyrs. All of us, by virtue of our baptism, should take the road and stay on the road of sacrifice. By no means is it a gloomy road. No sir. The happiest people I have met are on this road. The most miserable people are those on the other road. Stay on the road of sacrifice. Choose the "road less traveled." It is one that could make all the "difference" in your life and in other people's lives.

* * *

A MOMENT WITH THE LORD

*Lord, help me to stay on the road of sacrifice so that I can live a beautiful life that will lead my eternal life. Amen.*

# The more the merrier?

## COMMENTARY

*John J. Carroll, S.J.*
*Institute on Church and Social Issues*

ON CHRISTMAS Day, the young Jesuit deacon Chris Dumadag baptized 230 infants in the parish church Our Lady of Divine Providence in Payatas. Another 60 were baptized in one of the chapels. And that was not the end of the story: about half of the *ninangs* appeared to be pregnant as well!

While sharing the joy of the proud parents, one is forced realistically to ask, "Is this too much of a good thing? What is the future of these children?" Right there in Payatas our feeding program handled about 500 third-degree malnourished infants in the past year, giving each of them eight weeks of daily milk-feeding to bring them up to normal weight; and there seems to be a limitless supply of such infants. In some areas the third-degree malnourished may be 80 percent of all infants. Will the beautiful little infants baptized on Christmas be suffering within a year or two from malnutrition so severe that it threatens their brain development or even their lives?

And if they do survive these first years, what are their chances for obtaining an education that will permit them to broaden their horizons, and for finding security in qualified and competent work? Are they to eke out an existence as some of their parents do, as scavengers in the unbelievable and unhealthy squalor of the dumps—either for lack of education or for lack of jobs once they have managed to get an education?

A recent book, reporting a symposium which brought together some of the most respected economists in the area of population studies, reinforces our concerns. "Population Matters," edited by Nancy Birdsall and others and published in 2001 by the Oxford University Press, reviews the sometimes acrimonious debates of the past 30 years regarding the impact of population growth on development and on poverty. The authors, who in the past had hesitated to make firm conclusions on the matter, now find that some conclusions can be stated with confidence.

A first conclusion is that, in recent decades, rapid population growth has exerted a significant negative impact on the rate of economic growth in developing nations. And secondly, high rates of growth make it more difficult for poor families to get out of poverty because of increased competition for jobs, increased competition within the family for scarce educational opportunities and the burden of caring for many children. Large families may provide some old-age security for parents, but it is security at a bare subsistence level.

The coming Fourth World Meeting on the Family, convened by Pope John Paul II and to be held this month in our country could well be the occasion to emphasize the teaching of the Popes that a family should not bear more children than it can support in decency. Seen against the backdrop of malnourishment in the slums, street children, working children in the fishport of Navotas, on sugar plantations and docks and factories, one wishes that this teaching were screamed from every pulpit in the country.

If the doctrine has not been preached as widely as it might have, this is due in large part to the guerrilla warfare between Church and State on this issue which has persisted for more than 30 years now—since the Church in 1970 withdrew from the Population Commission of President Marcos. This warfare has hardened positions on both sides, among those who refuse to admit that there is a population program on the one hand, and on the other among those who would go all-out for population control even by methods which are repugnant to the great majority of our people—such as abortion.

A current example of the latter is of course House Bill 4110. It is hard not to doubt the sincerity of those who deny that the bill aims to permit abortion, in the light of the "Explanatory Note" attached to it. We read for example on Page 3 of this note that among the legal barriers to reproductive health care which the government is obligated to remove are "laws that prohibit abortion..." And on Page 4 we are told that "denying a woman the option of avoiding pregnancy or under exceptional circumstances carrying a fetus to full term interferes with her right to decide on a matter which has tremendous impact on her body and on her personal liberty." And again, on Page 5 "the Revised Penal Code provisions ... should be amended to allow consensual abortion under exceptional circumstances."

The text of the bill itself is more discreet, although the intention peeks out between the lines, e.g. when in Sec. 5, c, 2) c, abortion is listed among the areas in which government laws and policies are to be reviewed.

This kind of thing only exacerbates the debate and makes it more difficult for moderate voices to be heard. Yet, there seems to be at present an openness among moderates on both sides to a combined effort aimed at making natural family planning methods more widely available. Although the Catholic Church approves such methods, and can communicate the values which underlie them, it lacks the resources to promote them among the millions of poor families who desperately need them. Here is where Church and State could join hands.

It may be time for these moderates to leave the past behind and work out a common program, for the good of our people and of the nation. For on matters such as this, history can be unforgiving.

# Anticipation

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

"WHAT'S in store for the country in the coming year?" was the theme of last Thursday's "Private Conversations," Boy Abunda's interview show, the first episode of the new year.

To their credit, the producers chose to answer the question they posed not by the expectedly "show-biz" approach of guesting soothsayers and astrologers, but by inviting two "serious" socio-political commentators (ahem), Conrad de Quiros and me.

True, when we met in a dressing room at the ABS-CBN headquarters, lawyer Katrina Legarda warned me that Boy would be asking me about my sex life. And when I told him about my concerns about talking about my libido before millions of viewers, Boy merely let out his trademark guffaw, promising nothing.

But those who caught the show can attest that while sex was brought up during the "quick questions" portion, Boy, Conrad and I did manage to talk about the country's affairs for much of the program.

I think Boy, who's a talent manager, TV host and show-biz columnist, has an advantage over other public affairs hosts in that he tends to take the "common *tao's*" point of view when discussing politics and other "serious" topics. Not that Boy is in any way "common," but he doesn't seem to be infected with the virus of self-importance and "know-it-all-itis" that afflicts most other media "pundits," his two guests included, I must say.

When Boy detours to politics and public affairs, then, what results is a refreshingly spontaneous and unpretentious conversation, with the host playing the role of an intelligent concerned citizen with no aspirations to political insider status.

And indeed there is much to be concerned about. The President's Rizal Day speech was welcomed by many as ushering, at minimum, 18 months of effective governance unhampered by politics and electoral concerns. But in the weeks that followed the "Queen's sacrifice," the excitement and optimism it generated has fizzled out much too soon. To use a sexual analogy, the foreplay has led up not so much to a thunderous climax as to a chaste kiss. People are asking: Is this all there is?

* * *

**CONRAD, to even my surprise, seemed much more inclined to give GMA the benefit of the doubt. I'm more skeptical.**

**The signals she's sending don't point to a sincere and concerted effort to carry out the necessary reforms. And if she can rebuff even her allies from Kompil, who supported her in the days just before and soon after Edsa Dos, can she be expected to lend an ear to sectors traditionally bereft of voice and lobbying power? And can she find the bigness of heart to cross over political lines and listen to her critics and perceived "enemies?"**

* * *

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon brought up much the same point in "Debate," which aired live also last Thursday. How can the political opposition trust that their overtures of cooperation will not be slapped down, he asked, when previous efforts were not only rebuffed, those behind them were also branded as evil incarnate, with the President declaring there would be no "sleeping with the enemy."

But even Pong Biazon seemed inclined to give GMA some breathing space. And when the "Debate" staff asked both the politician-panelists and the media panel to play a game of "possible tandems" for 2004, the former chief of staff resolutely refused to participate, saying it's not the time to talk politics.

Both Biazon and Conrad, it must be pointed out, have been consistent in their criticism of the President's policies and the direction in which she has taken her administration. But if even they wish her nothing but the best as she seeks to pursue a true course in the final year-and-a-half of her term, perhaps it's time for GMA to learn how to be less "*pikon*," as I said on "Debate," and learn to listen more.

For me, the real testing will come when the results of the "12:30" congress of civil society groups this weekend are presented to the President and her Cabinet.

Will these be laughed off too? Or will she accept them for the advice made in good faith that they are? Will she carefully and sincerely study what is expected to be a shopping list of advocacy points to discover what is "doable" and consistent with her program and vision?

Madame President, here's your chance to retake the initiative and show even the skeptics that it is indeed a new year in the Philippines.

* * *

**OUR son had missed two chances given us to catch previews of the LOTR (that's Lord of the Rings for the barbarians out there) sequel "The Two Towers." So he was determined to be among those at the special midnight screening last Friday (or rather, Saturday morning).**

**Being the foolish LOTR fanatics that we are, we decided to join him, and because I hadn't had the chance to watch a movie there yet, suggested we catch the screening at the Greenbelt 3 theaters.**

**Reserving seats was a breeze. We merely logged into sureseats.com, registered, clicked on our preferred movie, theater, date and time of screening. We could then select our seats from a floorplan showing the available seats. Then we made our reservations. Tickets cost the same as those bought at the counter, though there is a P50 reservation fee. Then we were given a transaction number for when we pick up the tickets.**

**Normally, the deadline for picking up reserved tickets is 45 minutes before screening, but for LOTR: TTT, my son had to pick them up the day before.**

**Everything went according to plan, except that as we waited for midnight, we found out that there was an even earlier screening at 8:30! Save for the loss of bragging rights, a good time was had by all.**

# Is Iraq our enemy?

## PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

OUR national interests in relation to Iraq seem so clear that one needs to ask why our leaders have not been very forthright about our country's official position on this urgent foreign policy question. We continue to treat the issue primarily in terms of our commitment to the American-led war on terrorism, forgetting that a million Filipino workers face danger once the war explodes in the Middle East. The danger may not be immediate, but the dislocation is certain. Given their astounding number, there is little we can do to protect them. We should not be appeased by assurances that this war is going to be short.

Whatever motives the United States may have for wanting to invade Iraq—and we have heard all kinds of conflicting explanations—our own are simple and straightforward. We have people working in the region, and it is our duty to look after them. We are not at war with Iraq. We continue to have diplomatic relations with its government. We are a member country of the United Nations. We must take our cues from the decisions of that body. But more than that, we are bound by our practical interests to take an active part in influencing its decisions.

The UN Security Council awaits the report of the UN weapons inspection team that, in the last six weeks, has been combing Iraq in search of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq has denied it has any. It is unlikely that the inspection team will produce any conclusive proof by the end of January that would justify immediate punitive action. Yet the whole world expects the war to happen anytime soon because the United States has made up its mind and its forces have long been poised for an early attack. American officials are visiting various countries to explain the US point of view and to secure their commitment and support for a military campaign against Iraq.

Iraq has been so crippled by the international embargo imposed upon it following its failed invasion of Kuwait in 1990 that it is in no position to mount a meaningful defense. American occupation of the country seems certain, and with it the transition to a government led by Iraqi exiles handpicked by the United States. Saddam Hussein's tyranny will be dismantled and, like the Taliban of Afghanistan, will not be missed.

But why is the United States having a hard time getting the global support it has been assiduously courting? Even Britain, its closest ally in this campaign, has been expressing some hesitation about the wisdom of an early invasion. A growing number of world leaders are cautioning against launching a war without an explicit mandate from the United Nations.

I believe these countries know that if the United States is allowed to go to war unilaterally, the concept of a community of nations bound by collective norms and subject to consensual procedures would become untenable. The United Nations would lose its legitimacy and its very reason for being. Henceforth every nation that imagines itself threatened would be able to claim the right to self-defense by preemptive aggression. A world like this would be more unstable and chaotic, and would be at the mercy of a lone superpower.

But I also suspect that even America's staunchest allies have begun to doubt the purity of its intentions in the Middle East, and refuse to be its blind moral collaborators. If the idea is to retaliate against the perpetrators of Sept. 11, they demand proof showing the links between the Saddam Hussein regime and the suicide hijackers who slammed those jets against the World Trade Center. If the objective is to eliminate the threat that Iraq poses to the world outside, they demand proof that the Iraqis indeed possess weapons of mass destruction, and if they do, that they intend to use these less responsibly than other nations like India or Pakistan. And if the goal is to remove a tyranny that has been victimizing its own people, then they demand that this be a collective endeavor of the United Nations rather than the prerogative of any single nation.

What seems clearer by the day is that in the name of democratization and counter-terrorism, America is laying the foundation for a Pax Americana in the Middle East, a region that, not coincidentally, holds the world's largest remaining oil deposits. A war for oil may make sense from the American viewpoint, but it will have no legitimacy for the rest of the world.

But most of all, the American presence will be resolutely opposed in the region, just as it is being opposed today in the Korean peninsula. Even as they fear the terrorists their societies breed, Arab governments are even more frightened by the popular resistance that American hegemony in the Middle East will generate. They know that when the time comes to defend their own regimes, America will not always be there to save their skin.

The Philippines is a small country. We are not a big player in the world stage. But the circumstances of our own national evolution have brought large numbers of our people to distant shores as migrant workers. This has broken our isolation as an island protectorate of the United States. Today we find ourselves participating willy-nilly in the saga of other nations through the labor of millions of our overseas workers. And yet we have been unable to develop a foreign policy appropriate to this reality. We still expect America to define the world for us.

Our government has sounded the call for a strong republic. The first requirement for such, if we are serious, is that we stop thinking like a colony. Is Iraq our enemy? Let's answer that question ourselves.

* * *

*Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph*

# Microeconomics and the street vendor

## COMMENTARY

*Bernardo V. Lopez*

MICROECONOMICS is inherent to the Third World poor. *Kahig-tuka* (hand to mouth existence) is a large subset of this microeconomics world. In Metro Manila, where the poor make up a staggering 70 percent of the population, microeconomics is vibrant, if only because its energy emanates from the desperate survival of the poorest of the poor.

Take the case of a street vendor. Aling Tasya in Alabang sells three measly kilos a day of milkfish to earn P90 net. Before the MMDA drive when she had a mini-stall, she used to sell 10 kilos a day and earned P300 net. But now that they have cleaned the sidewalks of temporary one-half-meter-square mini-stalls, Aling Tasya is forced to sell using a portable tray. She walks around, holding the tray containing five pieces of fish for hours to sell a measly three kilos. Technically, she still violates the street vendor rule. But she skirts around it by being ambulant and having no stall. If there are sudden police raids, she simply runs for cover in the crowd with her goods.

The cops often look away from Aling Tasya. They too have a heart because even cops are also poor of sorts and understand the meaning of despair. Cops get vicious only when there are orders from higher-ups to clean the sidewalks of vendors. A few cops accept bribes of a free fish, a grievous crime of stealing from the poor. During Christmas, cops and their mayors tend to be more lenient. That is why traffic doubles during the Christmas season.

It is hard for government regulations to suppress the survival of the poorest of the poor. They will risk jail and confiscation of goods in the name of their next meal. *"Kapit sa patalim"* (holding on to a knife's blade to survive) is their only alternative. Street vendors are thus like flies. You shoo them away and they come back as soon as you stop holding the fly swatter. No one but no one has succeeded in completely getting rid of sidewalk vendors since World War II, not even the MMDA's Bayani Fernando.

Mayors Arsenio Lacson and Antonio "Yebah" Villegas tried to do it in vain. They succeeded but only for a while. The same will be true for Fernando. In the end, he will fail because survival of the poor is an irresistible human force. To the motorist, street vendors yield anarchy and chaos. To the urban poor advocate, denying micro-enterprise to the poor is a form of genocide. This is our dilemma.

We all vacillate from pity to spite for street vendors. When we discern their despair, we even buy a fish. When we are tired and it takes us 30 minutes more to get home because of them, we despise them. But if you compare 30 minutes of inconvenience to survival at the micro level, perhaps we become less vicious. After all, there is a huge humanitarian gap between inconvenience and survival.

People make heroes of those who give them benefit and make anti-heroes of those who steal it away. Thus, the MMDAs Bayani Fernando is a *bayani* (hero) for motorists and a *kontrabida* (anti-hero) for street vendors and urban poor advocates.

True, the vendors tend to abuse. If you give them an inch, they will take a mile. If you allow 10 vendors to sell in the streets, a hundred will come. If you give them 10 square meters, they will occupy 50. You end up hated by motorists and commuters. This reflects two things, first, our urban poor population is bursting at the seams at an alarming rate; second, there is no stopping this unwieldy force except by brute authority, by "genocide," as the urban poor advocates term it.

It is a regulatory dilemma. Someone suggests giving a "permit" to vendors to control their number. Will it work? Another suggests giving them their own market area. But they prefer the streets because the instant buyers are there. A proper solution is perhaps a balance between authoritarianism and humanitarianism, between permitting street vendors to operate and setting a limit so motorists and commuters get some street space. Control is the key, and total ban, Fernando's temporary solution, is impossible.

Already, Fernando is starting to fail. The street vendors are slowly coming back as soon as the cops let down their guard. Fernando says he will have no pity for vendors, not even during Christmas. His success remains to be seen. Not even the President is powerful enough to suppress urban poor survival. Human survival has tremendous energy.

If the big multinationals shudder from the impact of a protracted global recession, the micro-entrepreneurs are only slightly affected because their profits come from a very basic human need at the mass level, food primarily. The stark contrast of multinationals raking in or losing billions and Aling Tasya getting or not getting enough for half a meal reveals our strange ever-shrinking planet, a sea of humanity at the edge of poverty and giant firms trembling and crashing from global recession.

We are at an era when globalization is beginning to impoverish us. Global mega-forces are beginning to dominate the economic landscape and making the small like us poorer. The United States dumps chicken here, killing our local production. Taiwan resorts to smuggling garlic, onion and vegetables, killing our farmers and local industries. We will slowly drown if we do not fight back.

There is a solution in defending our turf against global forces, that is, making the local economy stronger. A thriving local economy can withstand the onslaught of globalization to a certain point. Strengthening small and medium enterprises is the first step. But going further, strengthening micro-enterprises, the base of the enterprise pyramid, is even more critical because it provides income to the majority of us who are poor. Old statistics, which are now obsolete, say 70 percent of Filipinos are on the poverty line. Perhaps this is now 75 percent.

If this figure is accurate enough, then a majority of us depends on microeconomics for survival. The underground economy thrives invisibly. Many depend on the smallest of business, a *sari-sari* store, Aling Tasya with her milkfish, a roving cart selling fish balls, a tricycle driver.

There are about 200,000 jeepneys in Metro Manila, mini-enterprise at work at the lowest rung of society. There are perhaps about a million tricycles, two million *sari-sari* stores, a million part-time street vendors. Micro-enterprise, if it is the key to the survival of the majority of us, must be encouraged, not suppressed, not to mention controlled for the greater good and harmony. Without micro-enterprise, the Filipino will die of hunger.

Street vendors are one of the most crucial socio-economic issues in our society today and Fernando's way is not the solution, with apologies to the motorists. It is a dilemma we have to contend with, and a proper solution seems elusive.

*Bernardo V. Lopez is a freelance journalist.*

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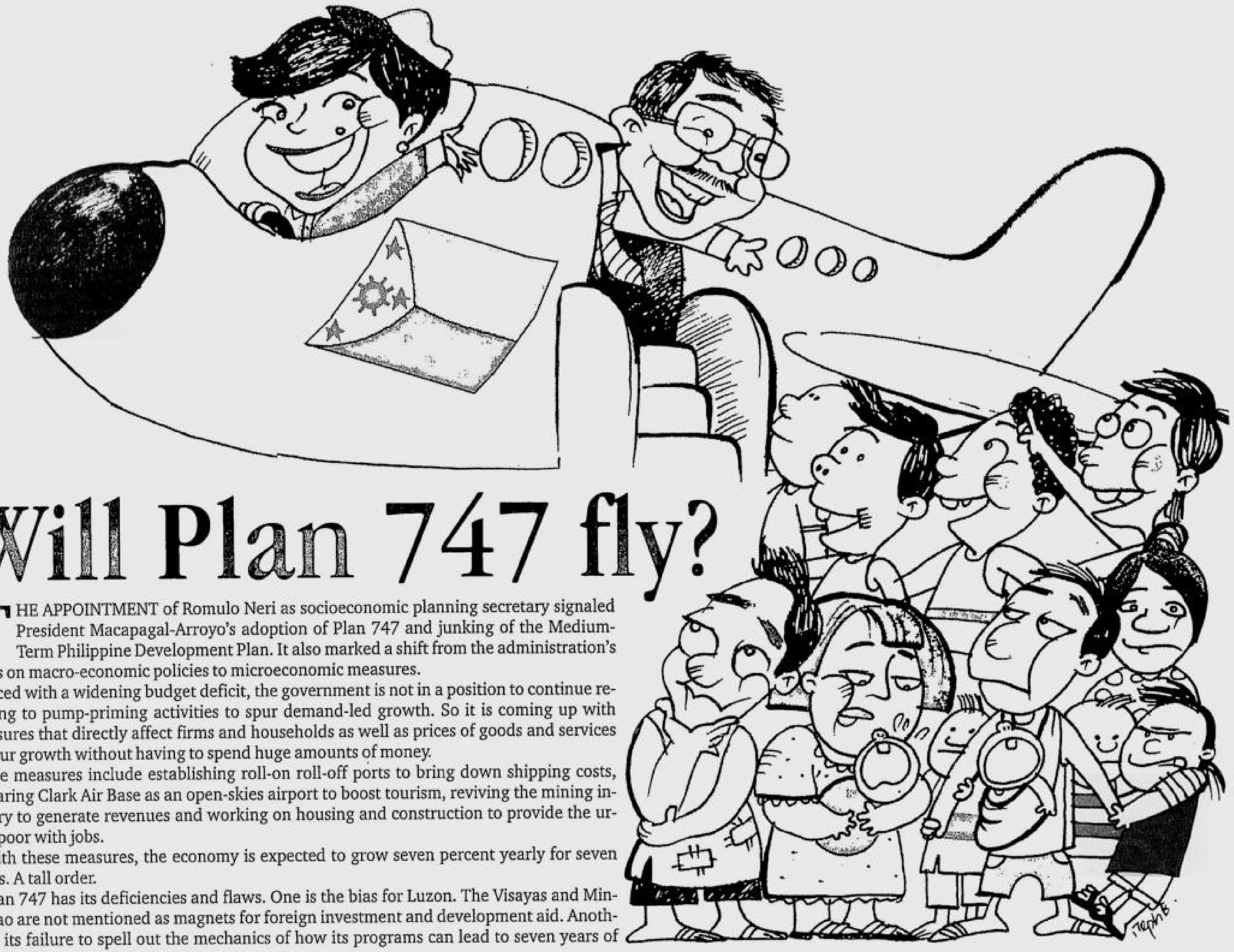
# TALK of the TOWN

Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**



# Will Plan 747 fly?

THE APPOINTMENT of Romulo Neri as socioeconomic planning secretary signaled President Macapagal-Arroyo's adoption of Plan 747 and junking of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. It also marked a shift from the administration's focus on macro-economic policies to microeconomic measures.

Faced with a widening budget deficit, the government is not in a position to continue resorting to pump-priming activities to spur demand-led growth. So it is coming up with measures that directly affect firms and households as well as prices of goods and services to spur growth without having to spend huge amounts of money.

The measures include establishing roll-on roll-off ports to bring down shipping costs, declaring Clark Air Base as an open-skies airport to boost tourism, reviving the mining industry to generate revenues and working on housing and construction to provide the urban poor with jobs.

With these measures, the economy is expected to grow seven percent yearly for seven years. A tall order.

Plan 747 has its deficiencies and flaws. One is the bias for Luzon. The Visayas and Mindanao are not mentioned as magnets for foreign investment and development aid. Another is its failure to spell out the mechanics of how its programs can lead to seven years of seven percent growth.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO / PAGE DESIGN ERNIE SAMBO

## 'The Plan will reduce poverty incidence from 38 percent to 15 percent'

**By Romulo Neri**
*Socioeconomic Planning Secretary*

TO ADDRESS the problem of poverty, there is no substitute for economic growth. World Bank research has shown that economic growth has benefited the poor. Likewise, research by Dr. Arsenio Balisacan showed that 90 percent of poverty alleviation had been due to growth while redistribution accounted for only 10 percent. Notably, in China, over the past 20 years, economic growth has lifted the lives of 270 million people in the greatest mass emancipation the world has seen.

Poverty in the Philippines has been just as responsive to economic growth. It has been observed that whenever gross national product growth had exceeded five percent, the pace of poverty reduction in our country had accelerated to two percentage points a year.

Plan 747 aims to address the poverty problem in the country through a program of sustained, long-term economic growth. The plan rests on a framework of macroeconomic stability while focusing on the microeconomic measures needed to strengthen economic productivity and efficiency while enhancing consumer welfare.

India's recent episode of continued economic growth has been attributed greatly to microeconomic reform measures. Microeconomic reform measures, however, are considered "hard" reforms as they are expected to encounter stiff resistance from well-entrenched business interests who stand to lose their excessive rentier profits.

### Open skies

Microeconomic reforms would include the liberalization of the airline industry and the declaration of Clark Air Base as an open-skies airport to transform it into a regional airline hub. A liberalized airline industry will lower airline fares through increased competition and will boost the tourism industry, creating more jobs and economic opportunities because tourism has many industry linkages. It will also help our millions of workers abroad, particularly in the Middle East, by allowing them to visit their families more often as air fares are lowered and flight frequencies increased.

Shipping would also have to be liberalized and supported through financing and tax breaks, among other measures. Port development would also be pursued by allowing the establishment of roll-on roll-off ports in key cities to bring down shipping costs and unclog supply bottlenecks in the regions. These would help bring down food costs and make our seas highways of regional trade.

### Central Luzon railway

Railway development is also expected to increase trade and stimulate economic activity, particularly in the potentially dynamic industrial corridor of Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

Railway rehabilitation and modernization will also encourage the formation of housing communities and the establishment of new businesses near the railways. And consequently, rail-linked housing construction activities will create much-needed jobs for our less skilled and poorer workers.

Another key policy reform is the further development of the country's information technology (IT) infrastructure. The growth of IT services provides a good job market to many computer-skilled, English-speaking Filipinos. McKinsey & Co. placed the global demand for white-collar work outsourcing in the year 2000 at $121 billion and growing at around 10 percent annually.

Agricultural modernization remains the focus of our development plan. A cursory analysis of the state of the country's agriculture reveals that this sector in fact offers the greatest potential in sustained increases in productivity.

### Nucleus estates

Specific measures toward raising agricultural productivity include getting farmers to shift to high value crops, installing water catchment areas to multiply cropping seasons, implementing an aggressive marine regeneration program that focuses on mangrove areas and coral reefs, and reforesting the riverbanks. To encourage private investments in the agricultural sector, legally sanctioned arrangements for nucleus estates with surrounding cooperative farms will be instituted for farm activities needing large tracts of land.

Plan 747 also aims to develop magnets for foreign investments. Industrial estates and special economic zones in the country have attracted billions of dollars worth of investment. The further development of the Clark and Subic Corridor, establishment of information technology parks for Metro Manila, and development of North Luzon and Cagayan Valley as catchments for investment and tourism will be pursued, among other measures.

Fresh investments are also needed to revive the country's mining industry, which would generate billions of dollars in revenues for the country if developed properly, and create more jobs in remote areas. And even more jobs will be created with the Plan's component of providing small and medium enterprises with massive support.

### ODA use

Improving the public sector is another component of Plan 747. Measures toward this end include streamlining the bureaucracy, expanding the role of local government units in tapping foreign investments, and maximizing and hastening official development assistance (ODA) utilization.

Plan 747 therefore recognizes the practice of good governance and the promotion of social equity as key aspects of the high-growth scenario. In this pursuit of higher economic growth for poverty reduction, the legislature plays a pivotal role by pursuing the right socio-economic policies.

With these strategic measures and policy reforms in place, the Philippines can and will achieve seven percent growth for a continuous period of seven years and reduce poverty incidence from 38 percent to 15 percent or less.

If we are to make a dent on poverty, we have to aim and strategize for a higher economic growth rate. Indeed, there is no substitute for economic growth.

> *The Plan does not spell out the mechanics of how its policies and programs will lead to the attainment of seven years of seven percent economic growth*

## 'It's a subliminal gambit of an empty promise'

**By Michael M. Alba**
*Dean, College of Business and Economics, De la Salle University*

*747: A Program for Economic Takeoff toward Sustained Growth* is a 27-page pamphlet authored by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. that, with the discourteous dismissal of Dante Canlas as Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning and his hasty replacement by De Venecia's man and erstwhile director of the Congressional Planning and Budget Office, Romulo Neri, has apparently supplanted the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, 2001-2004 (MTPDP) as the Macapagal administration's chart for the course of the country's development.

To eradicate absolute poverty in 10 years or so, the De Venecia Plan calls for the Philippine economy to grow at an annual rate of seven percent for the next seven years, starting in mid-2003, hence the title 7-4-7.

This growth trajectory is to be achieved by adopting five policies and seven strategic programs. The policies include (a) focusing on agricultural modernization, (b) leveling the playing field, (c) strengthening the capacity of the State, (d) sharpening the country's global competitiveness, and (e) using foreign policy in aid of development.

The programs consist of (1) modernizing the rural sector, (2) creating a world-class service sector, (3) promoting domestic competition, (4) creating magnets for foreign investment and development aid, (5) enhancing the assets of the poor, (6) mobilizing domestic resources, and (7) modernizing the political and government administrative systems.

### Motherhood statements

Because it gives only motherhood statements and omits specific details, it is difficult to quarrel with the De Venecia Plan. (After all, in these things, the devil is in the details.) Even then, there are deficiencies and inconsistencies, which can only mean that it was not subjected to a technical and consensus-building vetting process, the way the MTPDP was.

One glaring deficiency--indicative of the Speaker's geographic bias?--is that in the entire document no mention is made of the Visayas and Mindanao. In contrast, five areas in Luzon, namely, the Clark-Subic Corridor, Metro Manila, Northern Luzon, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog, are identified as magnets for foreign investment and development aid. (This is unacceptable because the neglect, particularly of the Muslim South, can only worsen the already lopsided income inequality between Luzon and other parts of the country. In addition, it is likely to exacerbate the rural-to-urban migration problem, which in turn will magnify the dimensions of the urban poor problem and worsen their plight.)

Examples of inconsistencies include pronouncements about leveling the playing field and enhancing domestic competition, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, using tourism revenues to subsidize PAL's competitiveness or converting import restrictions on sugar and corn to tariffs and using the revenues to support corn and sugar farmers.

### Exhortative document

The most egregious flaw of the De Venecia Plan, however, is its failure to spell out the mechanics of how its policies and programs will lead to the attainment of seven years of seven percent economic growth. This blatant omission makes 747 nothing more than an exhortative document at best.

At worst, it is a bitter placebo that seeks to subliminally conjure in the public mind the image of the (air)ship of state as a Boeing aircraft on a high flight altitude to tigerhood. This is an empty promise, and as such is the cruelest of jokes, preying as it does on the Filipino people's noble aspirations to create a more just and egalitarian society. (How De Venecia and Neri can claim--straight-faced--that a sustained high growth path can be achieved on the basis of their paltry pamphlet scales the heights of incredulity.

When--not if--their plan fails, will De Venecia and Neri publicly express *mea culpas*? Or will they have moved on to peddling their next snake oil product?)

Ultimately, what is rueful about this episode--this sudden change in plans and men--is that it revealed the absence of an ideological gyroscope in the Macapagal administration. The lack is what gave way for the administration to be tossed and turned off course by the waves of political expediency and opportunistic, self-serving interests.

My contention is that it is the gaining of this political gyroscope, not the President's disavowal of running in 2004 per se, that will be the key to the administration's performance in the next 17 months.

*(The author was a member of the Yellow Paper II Group that crafted a post-Estrada reform agenda. The group consisted of economists and social scientists from the academe and non-government organizations.)*

# US orders 35,000 more troops to Gulf

**WASHINGTON—The United States Friday ordered another 35,000 troops to the Gulf despite pleas from European allies to avoid war with Iraq.**

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld signed deployment orders for the new wave of reinforcements, which will include marines and more fighter aircraft, a senior US official said.

The deployments come on top of 25,000 troops Rumsfeld ordered deployed to the Gulf just before Christmas.

And Secretary of State Colin Powell reiterated that the United States was resolved to disarm Iraq through military means if necessary, with or without UN approval.

"I think the international community . . . has spoken clearly," Powell said after meeting with International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohammed ElBaradei.

"Iraq must be disarmed of its weapons of mass destruction. And if it isn't accomplished peacefully . . . then I think the Security Council has to take the action that's indicated and determine whether or not force is appropriate." President George W. Bush has "made it clear that we reserve the right . . . in the absence of international action to disarm Iraq, to act with like-minded nations to disarm Iraq. And we are positioning ourselves for whatever eventuality might occur," Powell said.

Earlier this week, British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon announced plans to deploy a force comprising 3,000 marine commandos and called up 1,500 reservists in readiness for possible war against Iraq.

Hoon said as long as Iraq's compliance with UN resolutions was in doubt, the threat of force "must remain and it must be real." However, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw spoke more moderately, saying, after talks in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur that Britain was committed to acting through the UN Security Council before being involved in any war.

After weeks of procrastinating, Turkey reluctantly gave the US military buildup a boost by agreeing to have its air bases and ports examined for possible use during any military conflict.

Turkey fears war in neighboring Iraq would send its cripple its economy and stoke independence ambitions of its restive Kurdish population, which, with Iraqi Kurds forms the core of the Iraqi opposition.

In an apparent attempt to make clear it was not alienating itself from Iraq, Turkey's state minister for external trade, Kursat Tuzmen, arrived in Baghdad with 350 Turkish businessmen to talk bilateral trade. *AFP*

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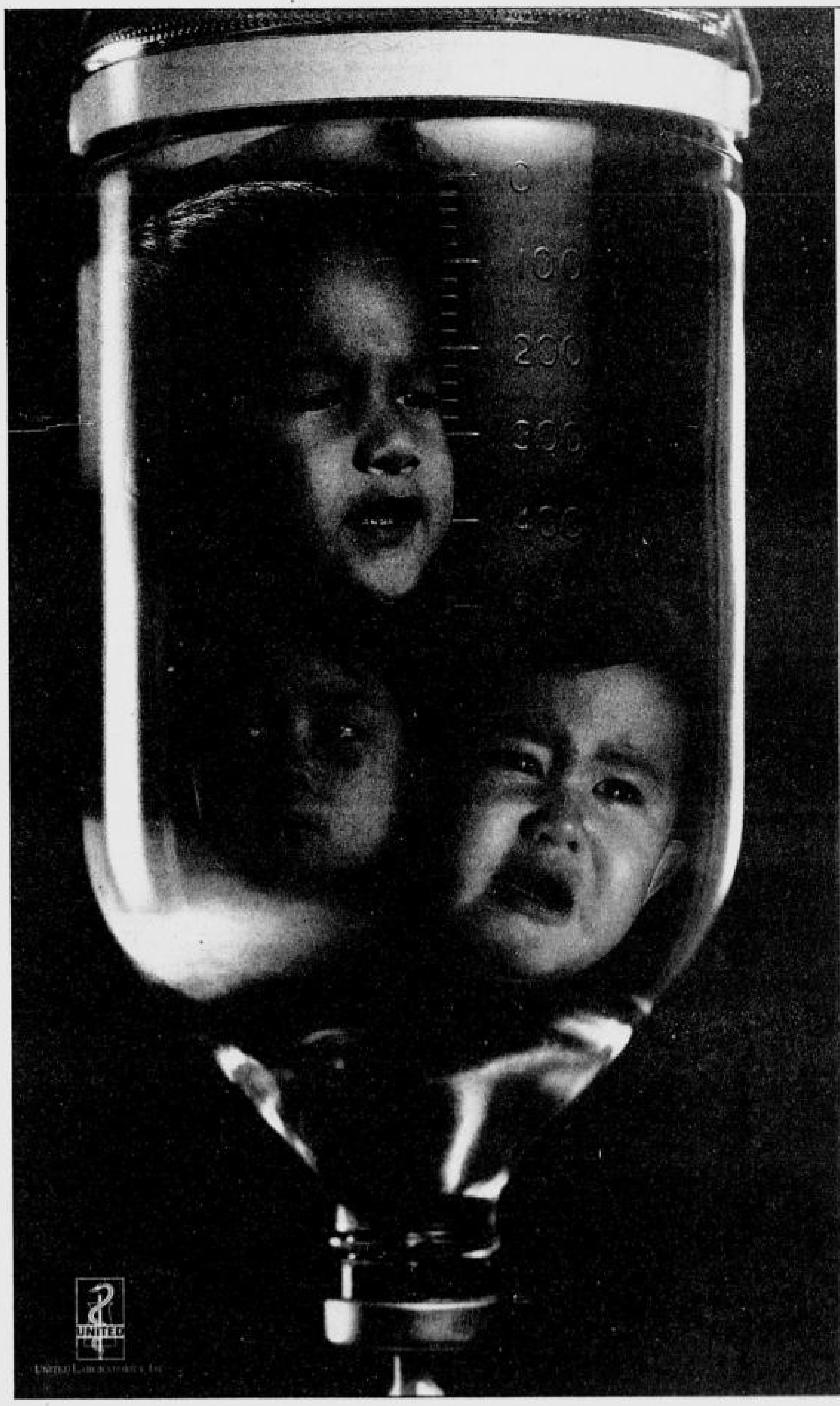

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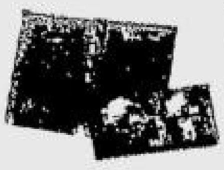

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# N. Korea: UN sanctions will be considered as 'act of war'

A SOUTH Korean soldier looks through binoculars from an observation platform in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between South and North Korea, Jan. 11. North Korea announced its immediate withdrawal from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) but said it may reverse its decision if the United States agreed to resume oil supplies. AFP

UNITED NATIONS—A defiant North Korea warned Friday it would consider any punitive United Nations sanctions as an "act of war" after stirring fierce global condemnation by ditching a key anti-nuclear pact.

The United States hit back by warning it would not be intimidated by the Stalinist state's nuclear brinksmanship, as President George W. Bush telephoned Chinese President Jiang Zemin to express concern over the fast-deepening crisis.

Two North Korean envoys meanwhile huddled with a former Clinton administration troubleshooter in New Mexico in unofficial talks. A senior State Department official said the North Koreans offered few new suggestions on how to end the showdown.

Hours after Pyongyang upped the ante by saying it would pull out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty its ambassador to the United Nations took the highly unusual step of holding a televised news conference.

"We consider any kind of economic sanctions by the Security Council as a declaration of war," Pak said.

He branded the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has called on Pyongyang to readmit inspectors it expelled late last year, as "a tool of United States policy" which aimed to "stifle" North Korea.

But he said "if the United States drops its hostile policy," North Korea might be willing to put its nuclear facilities under a bilateral verification regime.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell led a torrent of international criticism of Pyongyang's withdrawal from the treaty, calling it a serious challenge to disarmament efforts.

"North Korea has thumbed its nose at the international community," he said after meeting with IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei at the State Department.

"This makes it more difficult to find a solution," Powell said, but warned, "we're not going to be intimidated, we're not going to be put into a panic situation." A worried Bush told Jiang the North Korean issue "binds us in common purpose," the White House said.

"They both agree that North Korea's announcement that it was withdrawing from the Non-Proliferation Treaty was a concern to the entire international community," said spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

Washington has been trying to press China, one of the few states with any influence on Pyongyang, to convince the North's reclusive leader, Kim Jong-Il, to renounce his nuclear weapons programs.

ElBaradei warned that North Korea had only weeks to defuse the crisis before the UN Security Council may be forced to act.

Council President Jean-Marc de la Sabliere meanwhile said the body would meet next week to discuss the fallout of its decision to quit the 1970 nuclear treaty.

ElBaradei said in Washington that the North Korean government had "first to show that they are willing to sit and talk and negotiate without the threat of nuclear brinkmanship.

"North Korea must make the first step by coming into compliance." In New Mexico, former US ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson pressed on with talks requested by North Korea, meeting Pyongyang's deputy UN ambassador, Han Song Ryol, and an envoy identified as first secretary Mun Jong-Chol. *AFP*

# *Bush misreads Pyongyang: crisis now more dangerous*

**By Carol Giacomo**

WASHINGTON—Less than a month ago, some Bush administration officials were privately dismissing the likelihood that North Korea would soon take concrete steps to revive its most advanced nuclear program after eight years.

"I think the odds of a dramatic change (in the North Korean situation) in the next 30-60 days are pretty remote," one senior official told Reuters on Dec 20. Intelligence indicated no new troubling activity, he and other officials said.

The next day, UN inspectors reported Pyongyang had cut the seals on the deactivated nuclear complex at Yongbyon and disabled surveillance equipment.

Three weeks later, Pyongyang withdrew from the most important international nuclear weapons treaty and presenting US President George W. Bush with a reprise of the crisis his predecessor faced in 1994.

By any measure, the situation on the Korean peninsula is more dangerous than when Bush took office.

It has US officials privately seething that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il seems to have seized control of the agenda.

Meanwhile, the administration remains divided on the way forward, preoccupied with what it considers its most pressing international priority—Iraq.

The announcement that North Korea is withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty was the most serious sign yet that it may be determined to resume full-scale nuclear weapons production.

It was "not unexpected," Vice President Dick Cheney said.

But in fact, much of what transpired in recent months—including North Korea's October acknowledgement of a once-covert highly enriched uranium program—has caught US officials by surprise, according to officials and analysts.

The administration did not expect North Korea to confirm the hitherto secret HEU program when Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly held the first significant high-level talks last October, triggering the current crisis.

Hence, "there was no Plan B," one US official said.

Some officials believed the North's threats to restart the Yongbyon facilities, which center on plutonium production, were largely a tactical move to influence the recent South Korean elections, rather than a statement of actual intent.

Events have spawned a blame game in Washington as the Iraq-focused Bush team tried to play down North Korea.

"I'm not a huge fan of the Bush administration's North Korea policy but it's clear that North Korea decided to have a confrontation," said Danielle Pletka of the American Enterprise Institute, which has close ties to the administration.

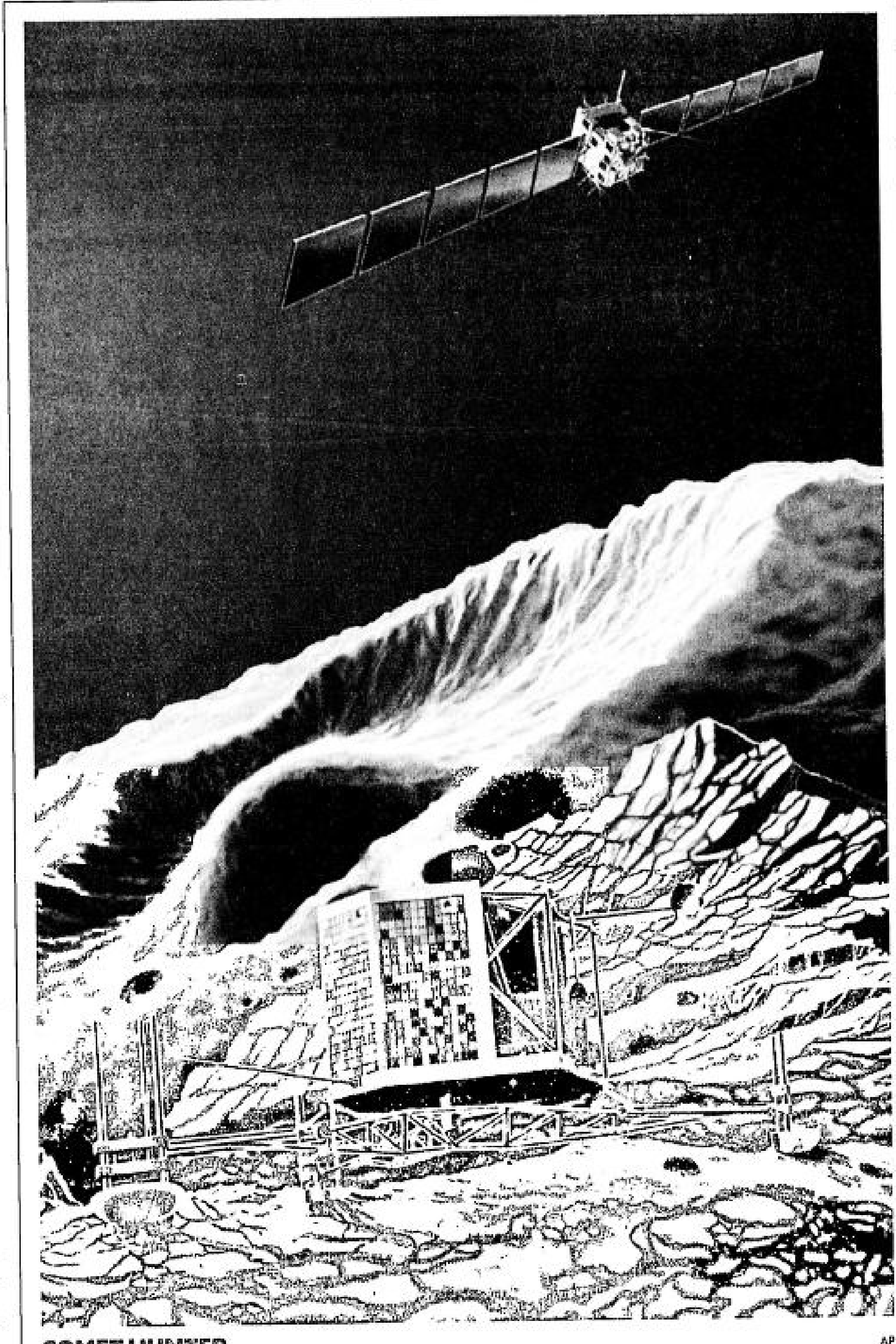
"The thing I regret is that we seem to have been playing their game and I'd prefer they play ours," she said.

Former officials in the administration of President Bill Clinton have watched with alarm as the 1994 Agreed Framework they negotiated with North Korea began to crumble.

The deal "froze" work at Yongbyon, which had already produced material for one or two nuclear bombs, in exchange for providing the North with two less-threatening nuclear power reactors and annual deliveries of heavy fuel oil.

The agreement was clearly in the US national interest and the current crisis should never have come about, they say.

The administration rejects any suggestion it contributed to the current face-off. "It's North Korea that put us on this road by developing a uranium enrichment program and by defaulting" on other UN obligations, said State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher. *Reuters*



**COMET HUNTER**

An artist's rendition shows the Rosetta orbiter swooping over its lander after touchdown on the nucleus of Comet 46P/Wirtanen. In the first mission of its kind, the unmanned spacecraft will hunt down the swift-moving comet in space and land on its treacherous, icy surface in 2011. AP

# Aliens queue to beat US immigration deadline

LOS ANGELES—Long queues of men from 12 mainly Muslim states and North Korea formed Friday outside immigration offices across the United States to beat a registration deadline under new antiterrorist regulations.

Many Muslim leaders, who say their community has suffered enough after the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, predicted the new rules will lead to new arrests.

A handful of detentions were reported in California, where hundreds of Muslim men were rounded up in December. But rights groups say the measures are only spreading fear and will do little to track potential terrorists.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has demanded that all males aged 16 and over from the 13 nations, who do not have resident status, appear before an INS agent by Friday night to be photographed, questioned and give fingerprints.

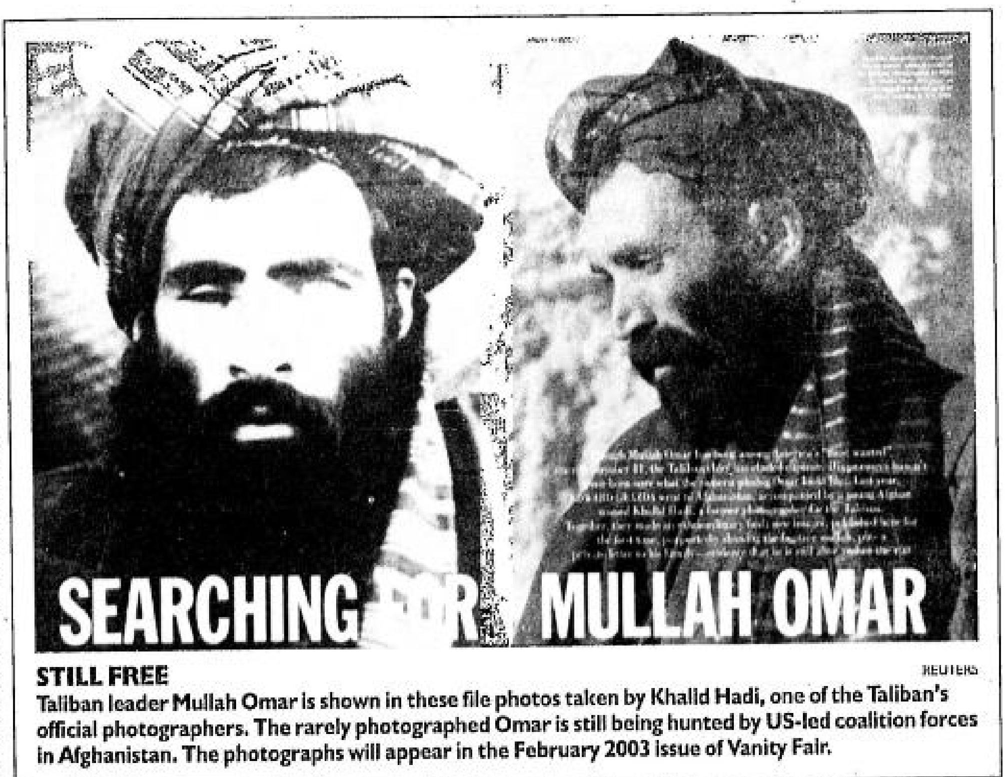
This round of the "special registration" involves nationals from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Iranians, Iraqis, Libyans, Sudanese and Syrians had to register by Dec. 16. Pakistanis and Saudis without resident status must go to the INS by Feb. 21.

The registrations are required under the US Patriot Act, passed after the Sept. 11 terror strikes on New York and Washington, to allow authorities to track potential terrorists living in the United States.

Around 50 protesters led by US civil rights campaigner Al Sharpton protested outside the Los Angeles immigration department as foreigners registered inside. *AFP*

# Citing torture, Illinois governor pardons 4 death row inmates



**STILL FREE** REUTERS

Taliban leader Mullah Omar is shown in these file photos taken by Khalid Hadi, one of the Taliban's official photographers. The rarely photographed Omar is still being hunted by US-led coalition forces in Afghanistan. The photographs will appear in the February 2003 issue of Vanity Fair.

CHICAGO—Aaron Patterson ate his first steak dinner in 17 years, while Madison Hobley and Leroy Orange enjoyed time with their families on their first night of freedom.

Gov. George Ryan pardoned the three death row inmates, along with a fourth who remained imprisoned, saying they were tortured into making false confessions.

On Saturday, the Republican governor, who leaves office Monday, was expected to announce whether he would grant requests to commute to life in prison the sentences of about 140 other death row inmates.

"It's a dream come true, finally. Thank God that this day has finally come," Hobley, 42, said as he left the Pontiac Correctional Center Friday.

Orange walked out of Cook County Jail looking a bit dazed.

"Right now it feels great," said Orange, who was flanked by his two daughters.

Orange also had kind words and a message for Ryan.

"Thank you with all my heart and please do something for the remaining group on death row," he said.

Patterson issued the same plea.

"It's very important that you all look into other guy's cases on death row and in (the) prison population, there are more innocent people locked up," Patterson said.

Ryan announced the pardons Friday at DePaul University in the first of two speeches capping his three-year campaign to reform the state's capital punishment system, which began when he declared a moratorium on executions in January 2000.

In his speech, Ryan condemned the state's criminal justice system for sending innocent men to prison to be executed.

"The system has failed all four men," Ryan said. "It has failed the people of this state."

Ryan said Chicago police tortured Hobley, Howard, Patterson and Orange into confessing to murders they had not committed. Each of them was on death row for at least 12 years. Orange was on death row the longest, more than 17 years.

"We have evidence from four men, who did not know each other, all getting beaten and tortured and convicted on the basis of the confessions they allegedly provide," Ryan said. "They are perfect examples of what is so terribly broken about our system.

"I believe a manifest injustice has occurred."

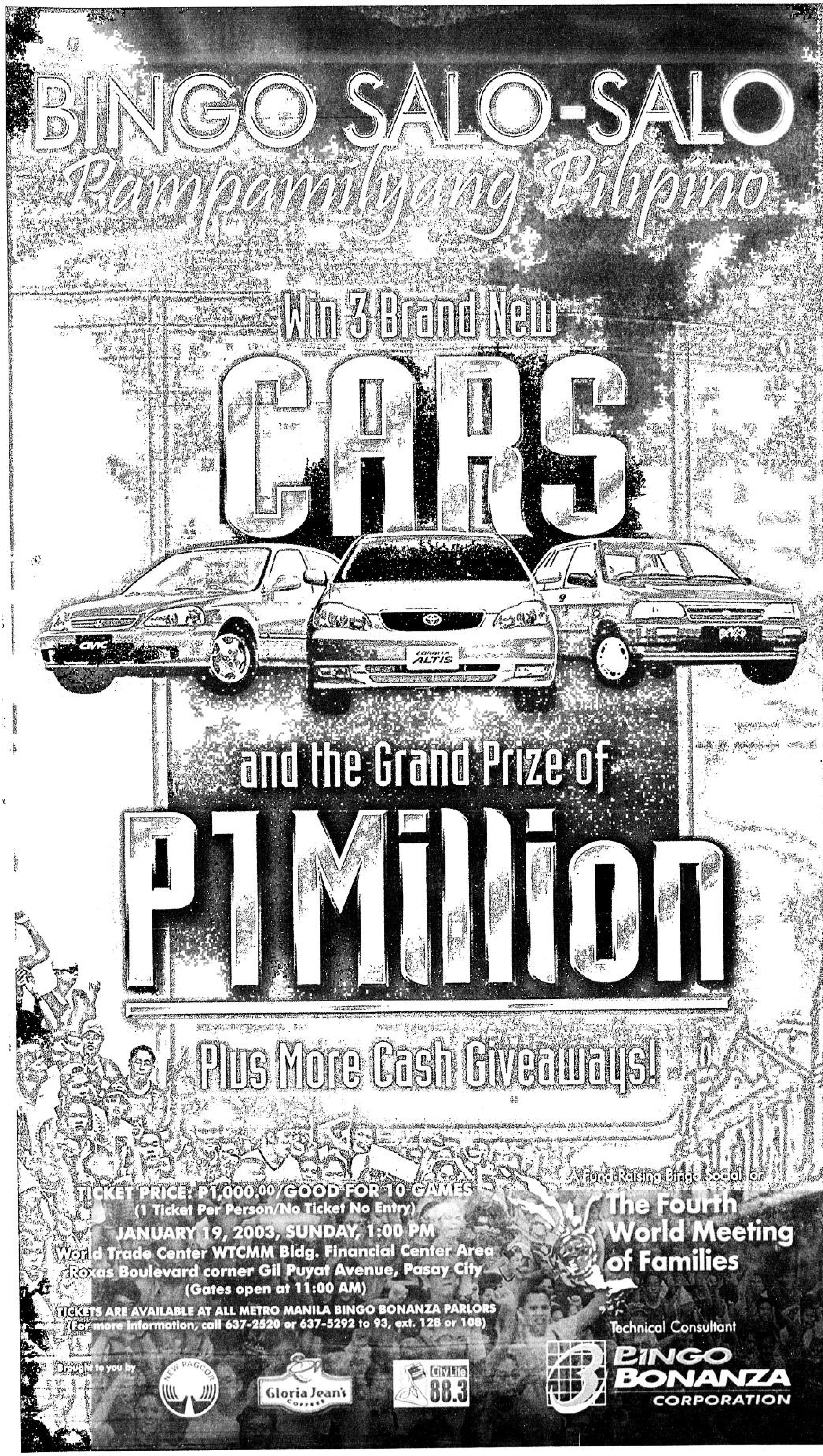
Patterson's mother, Jo Ann, said she was overwhelmed when she heard the news.

"I don't believe in miracles but this is a miracle," she said.

Ryan spread the blame in his hour-long speech, calling the state's criminal justice system "inaccurate, unjust and unable to separate the innocent from the guilty, and at times very racist."

He blamed "rogue cops," zealous prosecutors, incompetent defense lawyers and judges who rule on technicalities rather than on what is right.

Ryan said he felt he had little choice when he declared the moratorium on executions after 13 men were freed from Illinois' death row because new evidence exonerated them or there were flaws in the way they were convicted. *AP*



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# Across the NATION

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# Danding not running, says solon

By Carla P. Gomez
and Raj Padilla
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

**BACOLOD CITY—Business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, chair of San Miguel Corp., has no plans of running for president in 2004.**

Negros Occidental Rep. Julio Ledesma IV, a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition, made the assurance in the wake of reports that Cojuangco might aspire for the presidency in next year's election.

"That is the farthest thing from the truth," said Ledesma who represents the province's first district. "That is something that is not even in his (Cojuangco's) thought horizon."

"Why should he run for the presidency when he is essentially challenged by running one of the largest firms in the country and has wonderful grandchildren to dote on?" he added.

Ledesma is a good friend of the tycoon's son, Negros Occidental Rep. Charlie Cojuangco of the fourth district, whom Ledesma planned to get as his best man in his church wedding with movie actress Assunta de Rossi in 2004.

Ledesma said Cojuangco never mentioned any desire to seek the presidency even in their private and intimate conversations.

"What he told us in the party is that he would like to prepare the younger set to lead," Ledesma said. "I see him as a father, adviser and counselor of the party, rather than in the public realm."

Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Maranon of the second district on Friday confirmed that a lot of people were pushing Cojuangco to run but the tycoon told them he was not interested.

"He has repeatedly told us that he has a peaceful life and does need the troubles that are brought on by the rigors of the presidency," he said.

Iloilo leaders say they want one of their own, Senate President Franklin Drilon, to be a candidate for president.

Iloilo Rep. Arthur Defensor of the third district said it is high time now that Ilonggos should put flesh into their aspirations for an Ilonggo president.

"Senate President Drilon should be considered as a presidential probable. He has done well in his entire public career. Although he is still very low in the surveys, things may change towards the end of the year," he said.

"Let's give this a chance. He might improve in the surveys by the end of the year and then we can strongly push for him," said Defensor, Lakas-NUCD chair in Iloilo.

With an Ilonggo president, he added, Western Visayas would get more in terms of national government assistance.

Undersecretary Rene Villa, head of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Regional Development in Central Visayas, said Drilon was qualified to run for president.

# Napocor shuts down Masinloc plant due to village protests

MASINLOC, Zambales—Residents expressed fears of another Luzon-wide blackout after the National Power Corp. shut down operations of the 620-megawatt Masinloc coal fired thermal power plant in Barangay Bani here on Wednesday due to "chemical requirement shortage."

Engineers manning the plant blamed a group of protesting tenants for "effectively blocking the passage of all vehicles," including carriers of the mineralized chemical, which is vital to the plant operations.

Ely Flores, department manager of the coal plant, said the mineralized chemical is composed mainly of hydrochloric acid, which is used to regenerate the plant to produce essential water for the boilers.

## Acid exhaustion

He said the two generators were shut down starting Dec. 20 last year due to "acid exhaustion" as protesters and other villagers barricaded all entrances to the plant site, preventing the entry of trucks carrying supplies of the chemicals.

At present, he said, the power plant is maintaining only a few employees, including security guards, along with a team of government soldiers sent to secure the plant.

Except for the soldiers, no one can enter the plant. Employees can only use a helicopter to reach the site.

"Since we shut down the operations, Napocor is losing P5 million to P15 million a day in power costs," Flores told the INQUIRER by telephone.

After negotiations between the Napocor and the displaced tenants failed, protesters started to picket around the plant on Dec. 8 last year and put up tents at the main gate.

"Until now, we won't lift their barricade until Napocor had settled their debt with us," Yolanda Damasco, the group's leader said. "We are not rebels. We are just asking the Napocor to pay us," she added.

On June 22, 2001, the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board in Zambales ordered the Napocor management to immediately pay the displaced tenants P92 million as disturbance compensation.

## Unpaid

Damasco said Napocor did not pay the disturbance claims for three years.

Power and communications facilities were put in tight security recently following threats from the New People's Army that the guerrillas would target these facilities in their continuing offensives against the government.

The facilities were also guarded against threats from terrorist groups that came in the wake of several bombings in Zamboanga City and other parts of Mindanao.

President Arroyo recently ordered local government units to develop their own security strategies against terrorist threats and to enforce these according to the needs of their areas. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# Doc sought to find out if Ecleo Jr. going nuts

By Jolene R. Bulambot
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Officials of the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC) want detained cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. to be subjected to a psychiatric test after he complained of chest discomfort, numbness and poor appetite.

Senior Insp. Renante Rubio, BBRC deputy jail warden, said they requested Dr. Agostos Costas, chief of the psychiatrist of the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC), to conduct the tests.

A copy of the request was furnished to Executive Judge Galicano Arriesgado of the Regional Trial Court where Ecleo is facing parricide charges for allegedly killing his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo in January last year.

Rubio said Senior Insp. Jude Macasil, BBRC physician, recommended that Ecleo be examined by a psychiatrist after he was diagnosed to be suffering from hyperventilation syndrome secondary to anxiety.

Macasil, he added, wanted to have the cult leader undergo psychiatric tests to determine the cause of his discomfort and anxiety attacks.

But Rubio said Ecleo appeared normal. He said his office has not received reports of strange behavior by Ecleo.

Ecleo was detained at the infirmary shortly after he was rushed to the Cebu City Medical Center for chest pains because of pneumonia.

Senior Supt. Primitivo Benitez, jail warden, said they had asked for a psychiatrist to visit Ecleo in the infirmary, instead of Ecleo being brought out for security reasons.

**FAREWELL to a dream. Fourth Class Cadet Jeoffrey Andawi's picture and his academy hat are placed on top of his coffin to remind mourners of him.**
TOOTS SOBERANO

# *Justice means 'peace of mind,' say cadet's kin*

BAGUIO CITY—Relatives of hazing victim Fourth Class Cadet Jeoffrey Andawi of the Philippine National Police Academy have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to give them "peace of mind" by ordering a speedy investigation of the case.

"We do not want vengeance, what we seek is justice. Justice for my brother Jeoffrey will also be justice for the families of other hazing victims. We are asking the Church, the police, military and the government to help us achieve justice for this senseless death," Mirajoy Andawi, 16, said during the necrological service for Andawi at the Church of the Resurrection here on Saturday.

About 800 mourners accompanied Andawi's remains to the Heaven's Garden Cemetery in Barangay Loakan here Saturday. Among the mourners were Cordillera police officials and some of Andawi's classmates at the PNPA. Andawi was honored with a 21-gun salute before his remains were placed in a grave at noon.

Andawi, 23, died from beatings he allegedly received while on training at the PNPA in Silang, Cavite, on Jan. 5.

Kissack Gabaen, president of the Alliance of Northern Igorot Tribes Organized for Solidarity (Anitos), said they were dismayed over the government's leniency in "curbing barbaric acts in the (police and) military."

Andawi was a member of Anitos.

"We dare the regular members of the PNP present here to initiate changes to the decaying and unaccepted tradition of hazing inside military and police training institutions to avoid wasting another precious life," Gabaen said during the service.

Despite his brother's death, Andawi's sister Mirajoy said she would pursue her dream to enter the PNPA.

"(This is) a dream we shared together. His death gave me more reason to pursue that dream," said Mirajoy, a senior at the St. Mary's High School in Sagada, Mt. Province.

She said she will take the PNPA qualifying examinations in October.

Fely Andawi, the victim's mother said they will push for the conviction of the suspect, Third Class Cadet Jomari Pulquizo.

She said the family will send a representative to Cavite on Monday to attend to the case.

She also said the family skipped the traditional burial rites of Igorots in Sagada so they could closely monitor the investigation.

The body of Andawi was shipped to Baguio on Thursday against the wishes of Igorot elders.

The elders, according to Mrs. Andawi, had asked the family to take home Andawi's body to Sagada where he was born.

But the tradition, called *ngilin*, requires family members to stay near the burial site of their dead for a year.

"Our native rule demands that our dead should be buried in the place of his birth to avoid the spirit from wandering around after burial," she said.

Andawi was born in Sagada on Aug. 24, 1979. He was baptized in 1980 in the same place.

"We are willing to sacrifice our tradition if it means getting justice for my son," Andawi's mother said.

She said they had to defy the order of the elders "in favor of Jeoffrey's welfare." *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Cebuano bags ₱135M jackpot in lotto grand draw

CEBU CITY—It is indeed a prosperous new year for this person from Cebu who won the P135 million jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) super lotto draw on Thursday night.

Frederico Damole, PCSO regional manager, said the lucky bettor bought the ticket at the lotto outlet on Pelaez Street in downtown Cebu City.

Alex Oquias, owner of the lotto outlet, said the new multi-millionaire bought the winning number combination—20, 45, 25, 13, 29 and 33 at about 11 a.m. on Thursday.

Oquias' saleslady said she could no longer remember who bought the winning ticket because there were many bettors that day.

Damole said the winner might opt not to validate his or her winning ticket in their Cebu office.

The winner, he added, could go directly to the PCSO office in Manila to claim the prize.

The jackpot prize last Thursday night had reached P135,041,184 but the winner could bag more money.

Damole said the winner also bet on two five-digit combinations during the same draw. Each winning combination is worth P28,000. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Town council questions PPA collection in E. Visayas

By Jani Arnaiz
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

MALITBOG, Southern Leyte—The municipal council of this town has questioned the legality of the Power Purchased Adjustment being collected from electricity consumers here.

The council, in a resolution, said consumers should not be made to pay the PPA because there is no independent power producer operating in Eastern Visayas.

The council said the electricity produced by the California Energy (CalEn) is owned by the government.

Yet, the council said the power cooperatives were collecting between 20 and 40 percent of the total electric bill charged to every consumer as PPA charges.

Malitbog Vice Mayor Jose Go Jr. authored the resolution passed on Dec. 27, copies of which were sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Malitbog is 170 kilometers from Barangay Tongonan in Kananga town, Leyte where the government's geothermal energy source is located.

Sergio Apostol, Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corp. chair, said the PPA being collected from the consumers should be looked into because "the electricity produced by CalEn is owned by the PNOC and not by the National Power Corp. (Napocor)."

"How could they charge the consumers with the PPA when there is no IPP here," Apostol told the INQUIRER.

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism set by the Napocor and power distribution utilities to cover fluctuations in fuel prices, power cuts and foreign exchange rate.

It came under fire recently from various sectors, forcing President Macapagal-Arroyo to order its reduction.

But Apostol said the Napocor was bankrupt and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (Psalm), which was supposed to take over the state-owned firm after it was privatized, had not acquired any single piece' of property of the Napocor.

The CalEn, which is producing 500 megawatts of electricity from the geothermal energy explored in Tongonan, is being paid by the state-owned PNOC.

The energy produced is then passed on to the Napocor for distribution to electric cooperatives all over Leyte and Samar provinces.

Some of the electricity are being distributed to Bohol, Cebu and to some parts of Luzon. The cooperatives said they were merely collecting agents of the PPA being passed on to them by the Napocor.

The power rate in Samar and Leyte, which host the energy reserves, is one of the highest in the country. The Napocor reasoned out that the high rate is due to low power consumption in the region.

# Vets ask GMA help for funds

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—World War II veterans from Pangasinan have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to grant them P1,700 monthly disability benefits which former President Fidel Ramos approved in 1994.

They also asked that the P500 monthly difference in their pension in 2001 and 2002 be given to them.

The veterans commemorated with a Mass and program at the 58th anniversary of the landing of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the United States armed forces on Lingayen Beach.

The celebration was held at the Veterans Memorial Park at the provincial capitol grounds here, a few meters from where MacArthur and his forces landed on Jan. 9, 1945.

Telesforo Domasing, 81, said veterans are supposed to receive P1,700 monthly plus P500 for surviving spouses and P500 each for minor children.

"We hope we can receive the disability pension because it will be a big help to us," Domasing, who was in the Philippine force that cornered Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita of the Japanese Imperial Army at the Caraballo mountains. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# AMA Computer University tops again nationwide SWS Survey

In the latest poll conducted by Social Weather Station, the country's most respected survey group, AMA Computer University (AMACU) ranked number one as "The Most Recommended Computer School" in the Philippines. AMA Computer University (AMACU) bested its closest competitor in the category by a significant 31%. AMA also far outranked some of the country's leading universities including University of the Philippines, Ateneo, La Salle, UST, Informatics and Mapua. Among those who ranked AMA as the number one computer school, the top four reasons they cited for recommending AMA were the following: first, it was recognized as the most popular school apart from being the first IT University in Asia. Second, it was known for it high standard of teachers and its advanced, high quality curriculum. Third, it was recognized as having the most modern, complete facilities and advanced technology. Last but not least, its successful graduates were perceived to have a much easier time finding jobs.

MOST RECOMMENDED COMPUTER SCHOOLS:RANK 1
Base: Total with rank 1 choices

| | | SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | RP | ABC | D | E |
| AMACU | 47% | 56% | 46% | 48% |
| STI | 16 | 12 | 18 | 14 |
| La Salle | 3 | 8 | 3 | 0.4 |
| Vargas | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| UP | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Miriam College | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Cagayan State College | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Informatics | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.5 |

Other reasons cited were: affordable tuition fees for high quality education, global affiliation with IT industry giants like Microsoft, many accessible branches nationwide, and computer specialization and focus as compared to the more established schools and universities.

### Socio-demographic profile of respondents

The respondent profile which is deemed as representative of the Philippine population is as follows: Almost half urban and half rural. More specifically, 44.5% urban and 55.5 % rural. Most of the respondents came from Balance Luzon and NCR with a combined total of 57.1%. 20% came from Visayas while 22.9% came from Mindanao. The gender was equally divided between male and female at exactly 50% each. In terms of age, most of the respondents were 45 years old and above at 39.7%. The second largest group were the 35-44 age range at 24.4%, 25-34 year olds comprised 22.6% while the 18-24 group made up only 13.3 %. In terms of economic class, most of the respondents came from the D socio-economic bracket at 67.6%. The E bracket comprised 23.6 % while ABC respondents came in at 8.8%.

### Highlights of the survey

Based on other highlights of the survey one can conclude that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of students who would like to enroll in computer schools in NCR, especially among the ABC socio-economic class. This is deemed to be a good sign for the entire Information Technology (IT) industry.

### Qualities of a good computer school

When asked to mention the qualities of a good computer school, the top three qualities were: advanced/good quality/ high standard teaching/ teachers, 41%; advanced technology/ modern/ complete facilities/ globally competitive, 23%; and easy to find a job/ successful graduates, 11%. Back in March 2000, the top three qualities were advanced/ good quality/ high standard teaching/ teachers, 32%; advanced technology/ modern/ complete facilities/ globally competitive, 32%; and affordable/ cheap, 7%.

### Most recommended computer schools

The top five recommended computer schools are: AMA (48%), STI (33%), La Salle (4%), Informatics (3%), and UP (2%). AMA is more recommended by NCR respondents (83%) and those in class ABC ( 77%). Those recommending AMA increased in September 2002 (48%) from November 2001 (37%).

### Reasons for recommending AMACU

Among the 47% who recommended AMA as number one, the top 3 reasons for doing so were: well known/ the best/ the first/ more popular than others, 36% advanced/ good quality/ high standard teaching/ teachers, 30%; and advanced technology/ modern/ complete facilities, 22%.

### The AMA Computer University Advantage

There are nine major reasons why AMACU has taken the lead over other schools and universities when it comes to IT-based learning.

1. Adherence to international university level standards, the highest academic distinction any institution can earn globally.

2. Dual Diploma Program which gives enrollees the chance to earn two diplomas upon graduation. One from the University, and another from NCC-UK for international employment. Also, all IT industry giants have partnered with AMA for their programs.

3. AMACU's pursuit of Research, Publication, and Library Development is unparalleled in the country.

4. International Recognition. Since 1981, AMA has provided Asia and the world the backbone for its IT workforce.

5. Globally trained faculty, especially in new areas of learning like BS Mechatronics which is currently being taught by Dr. Mustafa Okyaya Kaynak, UNESCO Chair in Mechatronics and Visiting Professor at AMA Computer University. Mechatronics is deemed as the next high-earning frontier in pioneering careers.

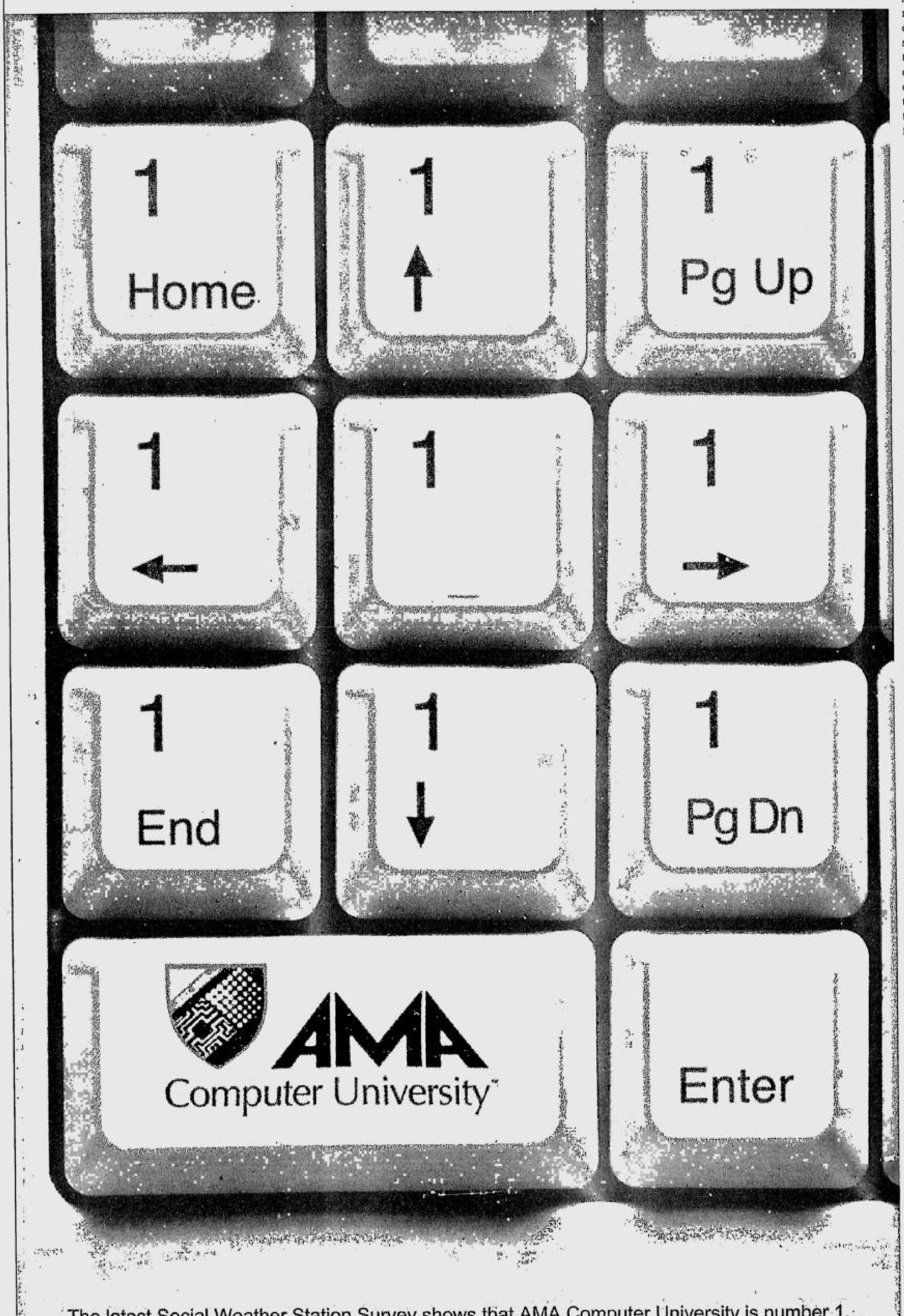
6. As a pioneer in teaching Mechatronics in the Philippines, a P500 million laboratory facility has been prepared for the hands-on use of AMA students.

7. The power of 4: AMA, Digitel, Bayantel and PT&T joined forces to provide AMAers with the fastest, widest Internet access on-demand on its Wide Area Network (WAN). Powered by AMA's 2.0 GHz computers, the Pentium 4 standard, on AMA's renowned 1:1 student-computer ratio.

8. University-level Masters and Doctorate courses. MA in Computer Education MS Computer Science, Master in Business Administration, Master in Public Administration, MBA on-line and Ph.D. in BA Major in Management, Marketing, Finance and MIS.

9. High quality but very affordable education. With the Study Now, Pay Lite scheme which gives students the option of up to 10 years to pay. And the Subsidized Tuition Fee Program wherein students are required to pay only 50% of their total fees.

With all these advantages, no wonder AMA keeps topping nationwide surveys as The Number One Computer School in the Country.



The latest Social Weather Station Survey shows that AMA Computer University is number 1,
the most recommended computer school in the Philippines.

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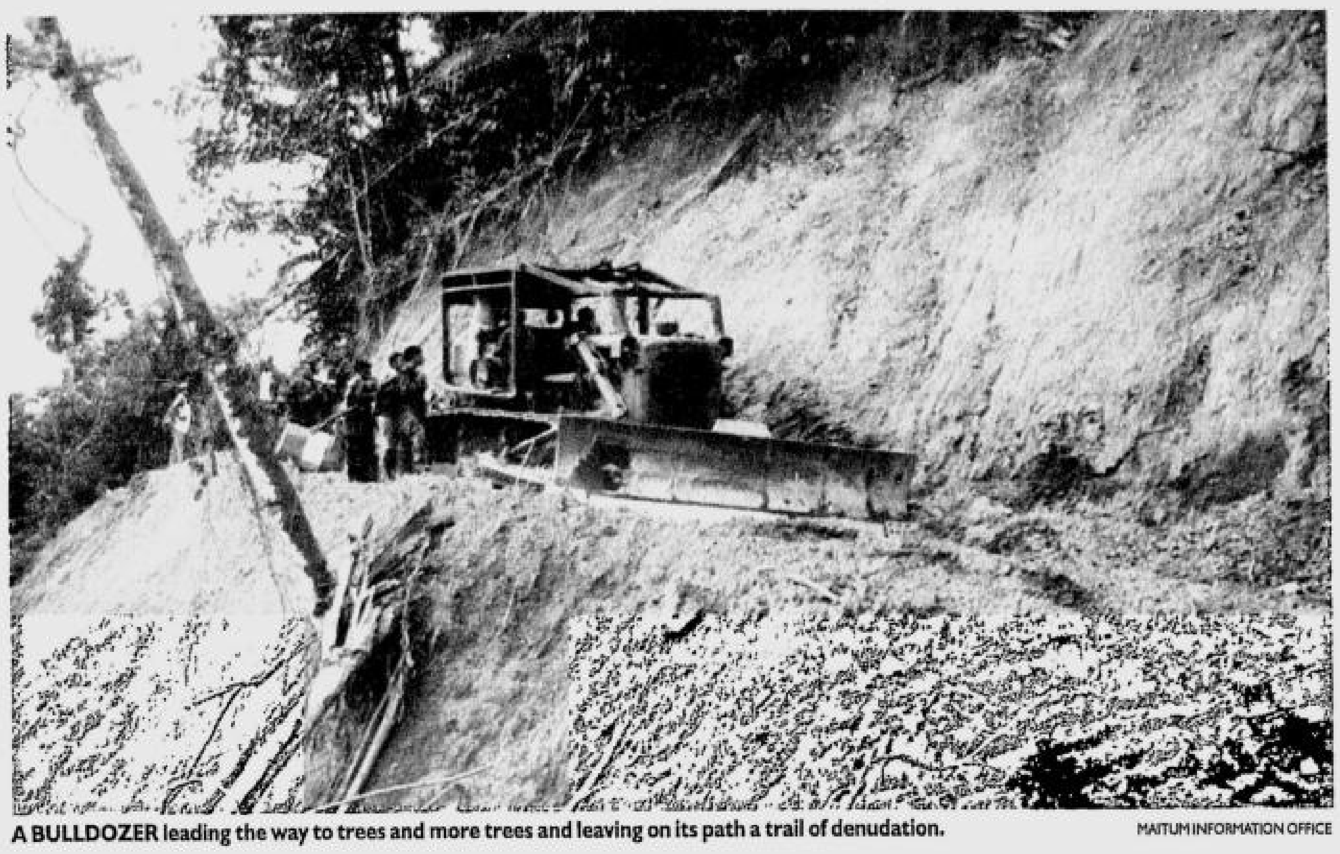
INQUIRER *Mindanao*

*Editor* Jun Bandayrel ◎ *Bureau Chief* Nico A. Alconaba

# Cooperative's forest 'mismanagement'

**By Aquiles Zonio**
*Maitum, Sarangani*



**A BULLDOZER leading the way to trees and more trees and leaving on its path a trail of denudation.** MAITUM INFORMATION OFFICE

IT WAS almost a three-hour grueling trek up Mt. Pasil, the highest peak in this town. Barangay chair Edgardo Del Rosario of Barangay New La Union served as mountain guide to a group of journalists from General Santos City.

The mission: To get the bare bones of the alleged violations by the Zion Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Zifamulco) of its Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA).

On our way up, an eerie silence caught my attention. A villager, who joined us in the trek, told me that on breezy days during their usual climb, they could hear the sounds of birds and frogs, as the sighing of the wind in the trees drowned whatever sound from farther away.

At the mountaintop, the sight of fallen trees crisscrossing on the ground was a revolting thing to behold. The destruction tugs at one's heartstrings.

Some cut trees, on their way down, tangled with the vines and, there, remained hanging up the branches of other trees.

A T'boli harvesting abaca in the area, whom I met on the way up, told me that on days when the wind was still, from dawn to dusk they were serenaded by a cacophony of sounds from wailing chain saws and crashing trees, roaring like thunder in the distance. This uproar drove the wild creatures away.

## CBFM or illegal logging?

When former President Fidel Ramos issued Executive Order 263 on July 19,1995, he must have the noblest objective in mind.

Section 1 of E.O. 263 says "Community-based forest management (herein referred to as CBFM) shall be the national strategy to achieve national sustainable forestry and social justice."

Even the introductory portion of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Strategic Action Plan speaks a mouthful about how noble CBFM concept is.

"Through the Community-Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP) the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources champions the cause of forest-dependent communities of indigenous peoples and migrant groups in their quest for an improved well-being as well as for the legitimization of their rights to peaceably occupy, manage and reap the benefits from their forest lands in a responsible and sustainable manner."

All this, sad to say, is nothing but empty rhetoric, as the program, in reality, is just being used by some CBFM holders in cahoots with some DENR personnel to cloak illegal logging activities.

There are two existing CBFM holders in Sarangani Province—The Zion Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Zifamulco) based in Maitum town and the Lumasal-Pananag Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Lupa) based in Maasim town.

Several other CBFM applications are pending before the DENR.

Zifamulco, according to the result of the investigation by the DENR probe team, had violated its CBFMA. In fact, DENR Central Mindanao director Musa Saruang had issued a suspension order as early as Oct. 21 directing Zifamulco to temporarily suspend its logging operation.

The cooperative stopped cutting trees outside its CBFM area, but continues its operation within the CBFM area—an utter defiance of the director's order.

Lupa, on the other hand, also had several brushes with the law. In recent months, the Sarangani police seized several truckloads of lumber owned by the cooperative for lack of transport permit.

A few days after the apprehension, it managed to secure documents from the DENR, to the great dismay of local residents, environmentalists, local officials and even the police.

In an Oct. 22 meeting, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Council (PENRC) headed by Sarangani Gov. Miguel Escobar ordered the immediate suspension of Zifamulco's logging activities.

A visibly irked Escobar lamented that instead of helping preserve the remaining forest resources in the province, Zifamulco is squandering them.

"CBFM's objective is not merely harvesting but also conservation. CBFM concept is noble, but the big problem lies in the implementation," he said.

He urged the DENR to be more resolute in checking the abuses of CBFM holders and "ensure that there would be something left for our future generation."

The governor wanted all CBFMAs in Sarangani terminated so illegal logging operations can be properly checked.

## Zifamulco's CBFMA

The DENR and Zifamulco signed CBFMA no. 64-002 in 1999 for the management of 2,463.33 hectares of forestlands including a 4,150-hectare expansion in Barangays Upo, Batian and Zion, all in Maitum.

It has a term of 25 years and renewable for another 25 years subject to compliance by the cooperative with the terms and conditions provided under the agreement and pertinent forestry laws.

Under the DENR Administrative Order 2000-29 (Guidelines Regulating the harvesting and utilization of forest products within the CBFM areas), CBFM holders are prohibited from cutting or harvesting forest products outside of its CBFM area.

Cutting is also not allowed along gullies, steep slopes, river channels and other identified critical areas.

Using heavy equipment, such as bulldozers, is not allowed and as much as possible the CBFM holder must employ labor-intensive and environment-friendly method of harvesting.

Zifamulco had been granted a Resource Use Permit (RUP) by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Kiamba town on June 18, five days after the DENR regional director approved the cooperative's Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

## Resource use permit

In a letter to the DENR, George Tanedo, Zifamulco chair, made an assurance that "Our operation shall comply with all the terms and conditions of the approved ECC, DAO 200-29 and other CBFM policies and guidelines."

The cooperative's Annual Work Plan, which covers 10 sitios in Zion, seven in Batian and eight in Upo, further articulated its commitment to employ environment-friendly method of extracting forest resources in the CBFM area.

"Felling and bucking shall be done by the use of power chain saws. Marked trees with 60-centimeter diameter and up shall be cut following the direction of fall to avoid damage to residuals. Subsequently, these shall be bucked according to its desired length before quartering or flitching for skidding to the road side."

It said that skidding of logs to the roadside shall be done by the use of light equipment such as wrecker on slightly steep areas and carabaos on favorable areas.

Accordingly, loading and hauling of logs will be done manually, but improvised loader will be used for big-sized logs to minimize loading cost and ensure the safety of the workers.

Whatever happened to such commitment? Just ask the DENR and cooperative officials.

The municipal government of Maitum, after receiving a barrage of complaints, created a multisectoral team to check the reported violations of Zifamulco.

The team, composed of representatives from the provincial government, DENR, municipal government, Barangays New La Union, Wali, and Zion, as well as from tribal groups, visited Datal Ibang on Sept. 18.

There, the team found out the reports that Zifamulco played havoc with the remaining forest resources of Maitum was not a cock-and-bull story.

## The destruction

At least 100 trees were cut outside the CBFM area, while 241 trees were cut within its CBFM area.

The team also confirmed that indeed Zifamulco encroached on a non-CBFM area.

This prompted the team to come up with a resolution requesting Zifamulco to stop its operation in Datal Ibang pending the delineation of boundary between Barangays New La Union and Zion.

New La Union subsequently passed a resolution on Sept. 20 asking Zifamulco to stop cutting trees in the watershed area. Barangay officials there lambasted the DENR personnel for conducting map instead of ground survey prior to the approval of Zifamulco's resource use permit.

This, they claimed, was the reason why Zifamulco went beyond the limit of its CBFM area.

The Sangguniang Bayan of Maitum also passed a similar resolution asking the DENR to temporarily suspend the cooperative's logging activities. Town officials were alarmed after receiving reports that the cooperative cut trees even in the watershed area.

Residents feared the destruction of watershed area in New La Union would result to the drying up of Pangi river which is the main source of irrigation and household water for Maitum.

In Datal Ibang, even trees along the gullies, extremely steep and fragile slopes, as well as creeks were felled down.

The destruction on the top ridge of Mt. Pasil was even more repulsive. There, we saw a bulldozer rehabilitating the old logging road of the Mindanao Lumber Development Corp., a concession owned by the Antoninos.

The driver, a certain Joe Marqueda, revealed that the coop hired the heavy equipment to rehabilitate the 17-kilometer portion of the former Miludeco logging road.

We noticed during the visit that a newly-bulldozed road was partly eroded by the downpour. Logs were piled up by the roadside. Down the road, a D7-F bulldozer was cutting the mountain side, pushing a mass of top soil down the ridge.

In a downhill curve, about a hundred meters away, another DC-6 bulldozer stood still. Its engine bogged down. This was the equipment used in hauling cut trees and logs.

Some timbers were obviously pushed down the mountain slope, toppling down whatever vegetation in their path.

## Signature campaign

Residents of Maitum launched a signature campaign on Dec. 6, 2002 to pressure DENR officials to heed their clamor.

In his investigation report dated Nov. 7, 2002, Cenro Renato Rivera recommended to the DENR regional director that Zifamulco be required to explain why its CBFMA should not be cancelled for violating its terms and conditions.

The same probe team asked the DENR regional director to require Mamerto Cardenas, Cenro assigned in the towns of Kiamba, Maasim and Maitum, to explain why he "failed to closely supervise the logging operation of Zifamulco."

The DENR director had already acted on Rivera's report. Saruang issued on Oct. 17 an order temporarily suspending the operation of Zifamulco.

But this was not enforced by Cardenas. Zifamulco continues to wreak havoc on the forestlands of Maitum.

On Nov. 12, Saruang also recommended to the DENR secretary the immediate relief of Cardenas. He (Cardenas) remains in office to this day.

The campaign is gaining overwhelming support from the 19 barangays of Maitum. They were optimistic that their complaint will not fall on deaf ears with new DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun at the helm.

Surely, this will serve as an acid test to Gozun's will and stance as environmental activist.

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# The tragedies that visited us

**KUSOG**

*Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado Jr.*

TWO tragic events marked the Christmas season in Cotabato City and Maguindanao Province.

The first was the senseless bloodletting that occurred in a pub on Dec. 21 while a bikini open show was going on. Five were killed in this "incident"—three were shot on the spot (Datu Hofer Ampatuan, Marlyn Chi and Jerry Adalin) and two Adalin's (Councilor Magno and Nelson) shot minutes after outside the emergency ward of Cotabato Regional Hospital in the presence of a big crowd that included some policemen and security guards.

The senseless killing at the pub and the apparent "execution" at the Regional Hospital shocked the entire City and Province. Datu Hofer was a son of the "de facto" paramount and most powerful leader of the province, Gov. Andal Ampatuan. The other fatalities, on the other hand, belonged to prominent and active Christian family in the city. In fact, the whole Cotabato community was more shocked by what appeared a public "execution" of undefeated three-term Kagawad Adalin and his nephew Nelson. This tragedy is yet another celebrated killing in a long list of unresolved and equally tragic murder and killing that include City Kagawad Alexis Costales and his nephew, NEDA Analyst Ramos, SPO3 Laurente, and the shooting of the National High School principal Joaquin Espana, and NDU Prof. Elaine Gonzales.

The pub shooting tragedy was senseless and unnecessary because there was no known hostility between the Ampatuan and Adalin families. In fact, the elder Magno and Datu Andal were long time friends and their kids went to the same schools. Picking the pieces together, the tragedy was a classic case of tempers getting out of hand resulting from women "misunderstanding" between Hofer's wife, Ingrid Sinsuat, and Marlyn Chi, a daughter of a businessman.

The city and the province were still in a state of shock and mourning, when yet another tragedy struck in the municipality of Datu Piang (the former Dulawan). Another son of Gov. Ampatuan, the town mayor Datu Saudi, and his men that included a brother-in-law, a municipal councilor and security men fell victims to what seemed to be a well-planned bomb explosion on December 24 near the mayor's house.

The attack on Saudi and his men happened in his own well-protected and guarded turf. The impact on the people of the municipality and neighboring communities was electrifying sending chills to the bones. Gov. Ampatuan was inconsolable by the tragic death of a beloved son, the "Ali" of the family—Hofer, and three days after by yet another death, this time of his first son, his "right hand" and closest adviser.

I myself was deeply affected by both tragedies. The Ampatuan broods (Saudi, Zaldy and Hofer) were like sons to me. I took them under my wings when they were growing kids, especially during their student years both at Notre Dame of Dulawan and Notre Dame University. I had followed with great concern and interest their growing up. I saw them when they got married and I was their "godfather" of sorts even in their political career. I have become an almost "next of kin" of the Ampatuan clan through the three Ampatuan kids and their cousin Zamzamin of the Office of the Muslim Affairs. I deeply grieved the deaths of Hofer and Saudi and their companions—most of them were former students.

It was a double tragedy to me because the other parties in the shooting were also very dear friends. Kagawad Magno Adalin was an ROTC Commandant of Notre Dame University for many years. He and his wife were regular "clients" and permanent fixtures at my 7 a.m. Sunday Mass at the Cathedral for 10 years. During his stint as a member of the City Council, he tenaciously championed the cause of peace and order in the city. From the talks circulating in the city, what made the deaths of Magno and his nephew Nelson detestable and dastardly were the fact that they were "executed" in front of so many people.

The sad thing about all these tragedies is the people's hopelessness to see even a semblance of the rule of law being enforced or justice being done. People bury their dead. Licking their wounds, they wait for another day when they, in turn, take the law into their hands.

When people from the outside ask why there are so much killings in Cotabato City and Maguindanao, the answer lies squarely on the kind of governance, law enforcement and justice system or rather none of the above.

Lawlessness, unresolved cases of nearly endless shooting, explosion and killing, and the utter failure of any kind of redress in the non-existing justice system fuel the continued spiraling of violence and endless killings.

But again, don't we have ourselves to blame for these tragedies? We elect these officials into offices, we tolerate law enforcers, particularly the police, to go on as usual in spite of their apparent incompetence and/or perceived collusion in lawlessness. Where on earth can you find a police chief who, after killing one of his men in public view inside a police precinct, gets a promotion and simply move to a nearby province?

Muslims and Christians alike have nowhere to turn to. They are like sheeps without a shepherd. Being Muslims or Christians hardly matter at all these days—both are lost and victims.

It is in the context of utter helplessness that the people of the city and the province clamor for effective intervention of the national government. It was an SOS appeal for help—TABANG!

I spent almost my whole Christmas day "texting," "phoning" and "knocking" at every possible door within the halls of power, including heaven, for such intervention. The national government responded well and the people here were very grateful for such a respite.

They welcome with joy President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive re-activating the Task Force Southern Mindanao not only to enforce total firearms ban in the city and the province but more so to establish the rule of law. The President has directed Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, chief of the 6th Infantry Division, to take charge of "normalizing" the situation and to put an end to wanton lawlessness and what appeared as the anarchy of the so many gun wielding individuals and groups.

They hope that the Task Force could prevent further bloodshed. People pray that normalcy will soon return. If the Task Force can accomplish this with the full cooperation of the citizenry, then the tragedies of the deaths of the Ampatuans and the Adalins would have achieved that peace and rule of law we all desire in our hearts. Praying and hoping for a peaceful and prosperous 2003!

# Abadilla 5: DOJ orders torture probe

From page A1

persons, and maltreatment.

"Thus, they are separate and distinct from the murder case filed with the Regional Trial Court Branch 103 [in] Quezon City," she said.

She also ordered Zuno to conduct an "appropriate administrative investigation" to determine the circumstances of the delay, "and impose disciplinary action if evidence warrants."

Gutierrez noted that the case was lodged in 1996 by the Commission on Human Rights on behalf of the "Abadilla 5"—Joel and Rameses de Jesus, SPO2 Cesar Fortuna, Lenido Lumanog and Augusto Santos.

She said, however, that there was an "unexplained delay" in the action on the case because it was resolved only on Aug. 21, 2001.

Among those named respondents were Chief Supt. Hercules Cataluna, Senior Supt. Romulo Sales, Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot and Rolando Abadilla Jr.

## Electrocution

In the CHR complaint, the "Abadilla 5" said in sworn statements that sometime on June 19 and 20, 1996, they were arrested without benefit of a warrant.

They said they were also subjected to extreme forms of torture like electrocution and "water treatment" to force them to own up to the murder.

They also said that during their detention, they were not allowed to confer with their legal counsel and relatives, and that their inquest was conducted as late as five to six days after their arrest.

On July 30, 1999, the trial court convicted the five men, dismissing their claims of torture, maltreatment and illegal exaction of confession.

The CHR consequently lodged the human rights complaint with the DOJ.

Gutierrez contended that while the judgment of conviction had been elevated to the Supreme Court on automatic review, the DOJ was not barred from resolving the torture charges, among other alleged human rights violations.

She admitted that the charges now under preliminary investigation were raised in the complainants' defense, which are now the subject of review by the high court. "(S)till, whatever is the outcome of the preliminary investigation does not *ipso facto* affect the outcome of the automatic review by the Supreme Court," she said. "For even if there is probable cause regarding their complaints, it does not follow that [they] are innocent of the charge of murder."

And even if the five were indeed guilty of murdering Abadilla, Gutierrez said, "it does not also follow that they were not maltreated by the police officers."

"Otherwise stated, the guilt of the Abadilla murder case suspects is not determinative of the outcome of the preliminary investigation on the alleged violations of human rights, and vice versa," she said.

Gutierrez further explained that the murder case being reviewed by the high court was not similar to the complaint of human rights violations filed by the CHR.

"The reason is [that] the elements of each of the cases are separate and distinct," she said. "One is a murder case committed against Abadilla ... while the [supposed torture was] committed by police officers who were investigating the murder."

She also said the victims in the two cases were different personalities.

Thus, she added, "it cannot be said that the investigation of these human rights cases is covered by the sub judice rule."

## Contrast

Gutierrez's resolution was in stark contrast to the earlier findings of State Prosecutors Sebastian Caponong Jr., Jose Dumangas and Clarisa Kuong.

The findings were recommended by Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Nilo Mariano and concurred in by Zuno.

In their resolution of Aug. 21, 2001, the prosecutors said the issues in the human rights complaint were "substantially the same if not intricately interwoven with the issues raised and submitted by [the] complainants in their defense" during the trial of their cases in the regional trial court.

The prosecutors found the issues to be sub judice, saying that an appeal, once accepted by the court, "throws the entire case open to review, and the court has the authority to review matters not specifically raised or assigned as error if their consideration is necessary in arriving at a just resolution of the case."

So as not to "unduly influence or bend the mind" of the Supreme Court, "we deem it appropriate to refrain from conducting the preliminary investigation," they said.

A motion for reconsideration subsequently filed by the CHR was dismissed on Oct. 10, 2001.

# 12:30 leaders' urgent call: Seize the moment

From page A1

still much that we can do."

## GMA deodorizers

Familiar leftist skepticism greeted the formation of the "12:30" movement.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Pamalakaya, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and like-minded militant groups described it as nothing but a bunch of "opportunists, egoboosters and deodorizers" of the President aiming to resuscitate her public image in the last, closely watched 18 months of her term.

The formation of the December 30 Movement "smacks of trapo-style *utang na loob* and political opportunism," Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño said in a statement.

"The worsening crisis cannot be solved by supporting a President whose single biggest achievement is her much-belated renunciation of her electoral ambitions while pursuing the same policies that have caused her popularity to plummet and have isolated her from the various forces of People Power 2," he said.

The President meanwhile was driving her agenda in another forum yesterday. In a radio address, the President called for stepped-up government reforms, warning that the country loses P22 billion a year due to graft and corruption.

She said that if this amount could be cut even slightly, it would enable the government to ensure that more children could complete elementary school.

The President cited a law she signed on Friday, increasing the transparency of government procurement which would "cut down the opportunities to cheat on prices so the government will be able to save a lot."

She also cited another law she signed on Friday, allowing banks to offload billions of dollars in bad loans as an example of crucial reforms that would step up economic growth.

Among the other priorities of her administration are the boosting of small and medium enterprises, accelerated housing programs and a scheme to reduce transport costs between Mindanao and Luzon.

Ms Macapagal also said she would enact other measures to reduce the country's growing deficit, including using assets seized from those accused of graft.

## Movement goals

According to the "12.30" organizers, the idea for the movement germinated after the President shocked the nation on Dec. 30 with the announcement that she would not contest the 2004 presidential election.

The President promised to devote her last 18 months in office to economic and political reforms. By not running, Ms Macapagal said she would free herself from the burden of campaigning and would no longer be restricted by political concerns.

"This movement was formed to help the President push her agenda. The basis for Kompil was founded on one person: Erap. What we want now is something positive," explained Songco.

Among the movement's declared goals are: forging a social consensus among different sectors on the President's reform agenda; monitoring its progress; ensuring its integrity; making the points of consensus a reality; and creating a momentum for good citizenship.

Songco said the movement's component groups had agreed not to support Congress convening itself into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

"We are afraid this might be used to postpone the (2004) elections," he said.

The movement will also not commit itself to support any candidate in the 2004 presidential polls. "We won't bother ourselves with things-like that," Songco said.

What it will be is a watchdog that will focus on policy advocacy, said Joel Pagsanjan of Code-NGO who described the movement's stance with government as "constructive engagement."

"If nothing happens, then we can blame ourselves and not blame government anymore," added Tañada.

Further emphasizing the time-bound analogy, Songco said the December 30 movement would be in existence for 18 months only.

## Open to everyone

He added that it would be independent of government, would promote harmony and unity, and would be open to anyone who supports the President's reform agenda.

At least three Cabinet secretaries—Social Work and Development Secretary Dinky Soliman, Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho—attended the launch.

Also in attendance were representatives from indigenous people, fisherfolk, miners and urban poor, who sat through a morning of presentations and forums. The group broke for lunch then reconvened for workshops.

"We are hoping that with this initiative, civil society can help government focus on the agenda of the President," Roxas told reporters.

Camacho called on the different sectors to stop arguing over Ms Macapagal's 18-month agenda but look for "commonalities and work towards them."

Reacting to comments on why other Edsa II groups like Bayan, the Philippine Consultative Assembly and the Council of Philippine Affairs were not around, Pagsanjan said "anyone who wants to join is free to do so during the 18 months."

The organizers could not say if the three groups which have been critical of Ms Macapagal had been invited to yesterday's meeting.

"The message of this meeting was spread informally only through text," said Pagsanjan and Molina.

But Linggoy Alcuaz, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office board member who has gone to town with allegations of corruption in the PCSO, was there.

In the open forum, Alcuaz asked the Cabinet secretaries present what Ms Macapagal intended to do with his exposé.

Soliman responded that there were mechanisms in place inside the PCSO to check graft. ***With a report from Volt Contreras, Mauro Malanes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and AFP***

FAR AWAY and long ago, Sister Maggiorina Nazareno Arenas came to the southermost part of Oriental Mindoro to live and work with the Mangyans. At 72, she's still at it, and dancing to their music.

MADONNA VIROLA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

# Nun shuns fame, fortune to be one of the Mangyans

From page A1

the nun fondly called Sister Maggio. "The happiest times for me are when I see Mangyan children going to school and patients recovering from dying," she said.

In the twilight of her years, her wish is to die among the Mangyan "and to be buried here in the mountains with them," she said.

"Burial here is simple because it's cheap," she added with a laugh that belied the pain in her legs, swollen with varicose veins, that she had been enduring.

The pain has not stopped her from immersing herself in her work. But now that she is older, she has moved house from Barangay Agong to the more accessible Barangay Pawikan.

Still, "her assertiveness, particularly in handling the issue of ancestral land, has paid off," said Joy Bae, a member of the Mangyan Mission staff and a former Jesuit volunteer.

According to Joy, even insurgents belonging to the New People's Army respect Sister Maggio for her courage and commitment to the cause of the Mangyan.

## Beginnings

A native of Naic, Cavite, Sister Maggio is one of nine children. Their father was a doctor and their mother, a professor at the University of Sto. Tomas.

Of her siblings, four are doctors, one a dentist, one a pharmacist, one an optometrist and one, a master's degree holder.

"I did not claim my share of money from my family," she said. "My sisters would give me money, but I often told them lies because I did not spend the money on myself but on the Mangyan.

"I have never helped my family."

The future missionary completed a course in culinary arts at the UST—an expertise that perhaps complemented her planting of a few varieties of vegetables and tending of livestock in Bulalacao.

Sister Maggio never tires of recalling her early years with the Mangyan.

"In the beginning, they were indifferent to me because they were afraid of those different from them," she said.

She had no place to live in when she first came to the mountains. "They gave me a hut far away from where they lived. They were afraid of Christians."

Always, she said, she was by herself: "I walked in the mountains alone. Sometimes I did not know where the road would end. They were afraid to go with me."

Sister Maggio confessed to occasionally being afraid.

"Sometimes snakes would be crawling along the trail," she recalled. "I was far from communication, from water. At times, I would ask myself: Is this God's will for me?

"I was alone in fighting the bigwigs. At that time the Mangyan did not know how to speak out their issues and needs."

## Day and night

Sister Maggio worked day and night to attend to the land problems of the Mangyan.

If she was called, she sallied forth whether it was night or pouring rain, despite the leeches lurking along the way and the fields of *cogon* that she said she literally had to "swim through."

She recalled being deeply moved by the state of the Mangyan—"seeing them with no food, seeing their vegetables and plants being eaten by the cows in the pasture, seeing the dogs lick the anuses of little children."

The memory is unforgettable, she said: "Seeing their subhuman living condition, their ignorance—their most oppressive condition . . ."

Once, Sister Maggio said, she visited a Mangyan hut in response to a sick call.

"I brought my flashlight with me because it was night time," she said. "I focused the light on the stairs when I was about to climb the hut. The head of the family shouted at me, but it was more out of anxiety than anger. In their culture, a flashlight should not be turned on inside the house of the sick. They believe that the sick will not get well."

She remembered the dying patient who, although vomiting blood, refused to accept treatment because he was already being treated by their medicine man.

"I just watched him die," she said.

Sister Maggio said that in taking the less traveled road, she would always turn to her heart.

"I remember, someone once told me to make an altar in my heart," she said. "I have done that. It is where I go for strength. And God knows."

# Inquirer's newsboy promo wins citation

From page A1

Newspaper Association of America, in its 2002 Advertising, Circulation and Marketing Excellence—or ACME—Awards.

A brainchild of the paper's marketing and circulation group, the "Koolboy" promo, which ran from August to November last year, basically offered incentives to the hundreds of newsboys who aggressively sold the paper.

The newsboys earned a point in the form of a sticker for every certain number of INQUIRER copies sold. The accumulated stickers can then be exchanged for "cool" prizes ranging from jackets to bicycles and cell phones.

The innovative campaign won the INQUIRER a spot in the forthcoming exhibition marking the NAA's 2003 Marketing Conference in Orlando, Florida, from Jan. 26 to 29, according to Donald Lim, the INQUIRER's assistant vice president for marketing.

## World-class

"The award further proved the INQUIRER as a world-class newspaper," Lim said. "We are now part of the NAA's compilation of the best practices of newspapers around the world."

On the "Koolboy" concept, Lim said: "Newsboys are an integral part of the selling process of the newspaper. They are the ones who come in direct contact with the readers."

"Although most broadsheet readers are brand loyal, there remains a significant portion who buys the first newspaper they see every morning," he said.

And because of the incentives, Lim added, "newsboys who were usually silent in selling . . . came alive in pushing for the INQUIRER and led readers of other broadsheets to make the shift" to the INQUIRER.

## 10-percent increase

Lim, who entered "Koolboy" online as an ACME nominee last October, the second increased by 10 percent.

The ACME Awards cited "Koolboy" as one of the best marketing campaigns in the category of newspapers with a daily circulation of over 150,000 copies.

NAA is a non-profit organization whose membership covers 90 percent of daily newspapers in the US, a wide range of non-daily US newspapers, plus many Canadian and international newspapers.

Formed in 1992, the NAA focuses on six key strategic priorities that collectively affect the newspaper industry—marketing, public policy, diversity, industry development, newspaper operations and readership.

**SUERTRES** 4 0 1

**SIX DIGIT** (In exact order)

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Sunday SPORTS
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**6/42 Luzon**

3 15 19 20 32 35

**Vis-Min**

9 13 26 32 34 37

## POOLED EDITORIAL

# PSA hits Pacquiao for snubbing rites

**CALL it a left hook, even a low blow. Whatever, Manny Pacquiao's deliberate snub of the Philippine Sportswriters Association Awards Night on Friday smacked of arrogance of the highest form. The PSA simply felt betrayed.**

Hours before the rites, Pacquiao's business manager, Rod Nazario, told PSA members the reigning International Boxing Federation super bantamweight champion had a bum stomach and couldn't make it.

Pressed further, Nazario, fidgeting, even squirming, admitted Pacquiao was still in Davao City. He apparently had plans to take a plane early Friday until his stomach got in the way. "LBM," was how Nazario described it.

That simply won't wash with the PSA.

Last year, when the PSA's highest award was bestowed on golfer Dorothy Delasin and master cue artist Efren Reyes, Pacquiao also shunned the rites. Pacquiao, then named as the pro boxer of the year, later told his friends in the media that he was hurt by what he felt was the PSA's indifference to his achievements for the 2001.

That was below the belt. The PSA, in determining the recipients of its highest annual award, lets its members do the talking by way of balloting. It was clear then that the members felt only Delasin and Reyes deserved the award.

We in the PSA wouldn't dare think that fame and fortune have trudged their way into Pacquiao's head and dyed hair. We had thought that Pacquiao has the makings of a people's champion, what with his admirable fighting skills, big fighting heart and shades of humility that he displayed early in his career.

Pacquiao should learn a lesson or two from his co-awardee, Sportswoman of the Year Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, and PSC chair Eric Buhain. Even from former PBA commissioner Leo Prieto and former Philippine Olympic Committee president Julian Malonzo.

Mikee, in her acceptance speech, was a picture of humility, dedicating her award not only to her co-awardees but also to other athletes who, she said, should be inspired by the accolade bestowed on her. She said they should try their best to achieve what she and the rest had achieved, for there's something glittery awaiting them.

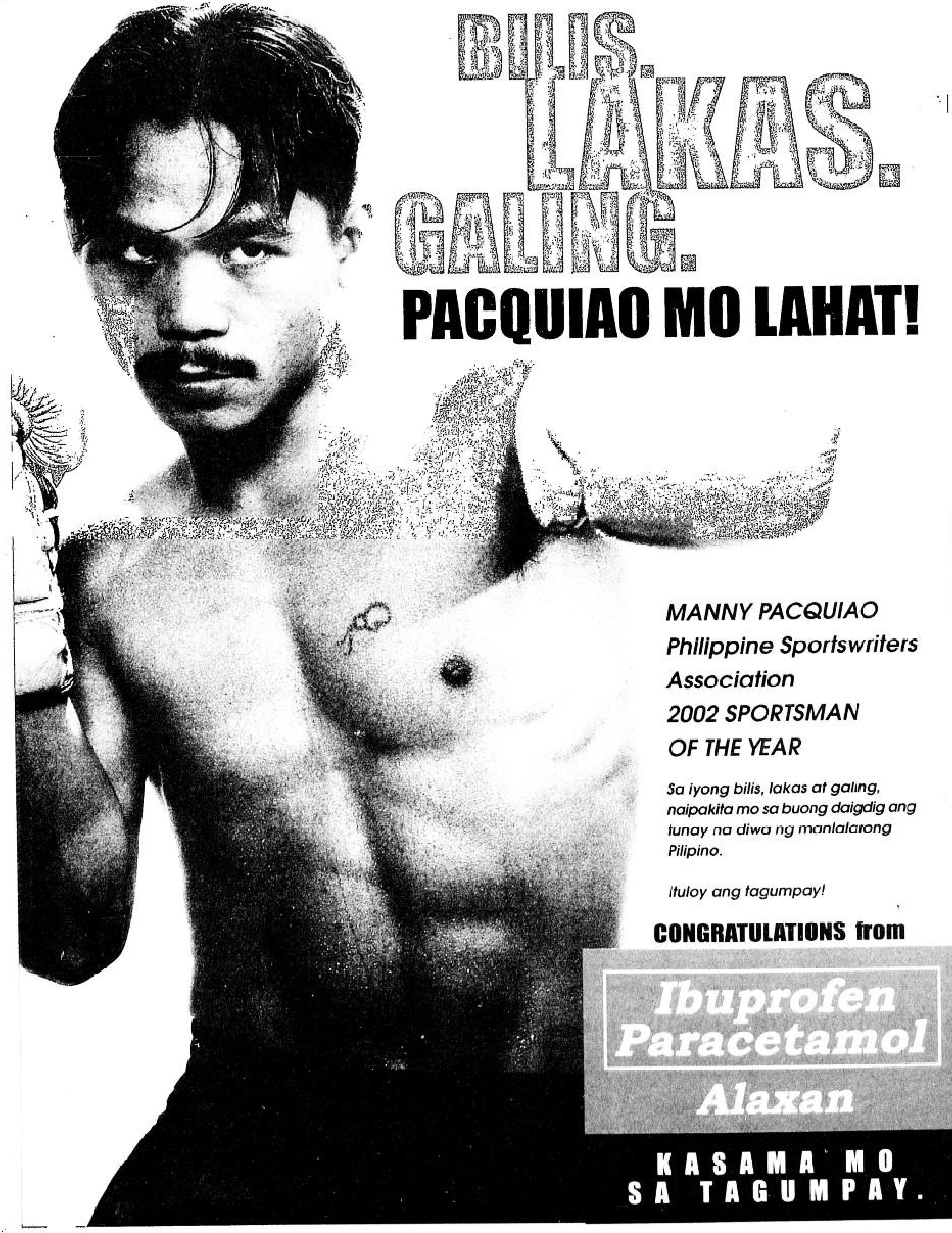
Those words, coming from a gracious and well-bred lady who has everything in life, left nearly everybody with moist in the eyes, and the PSA feeling it had done a good job.

Later, she took the time to pose with many of the personnel of the

PSA HITS/ A17

**SPORTSWOMAN of the Year Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski: A picture of humility.**

ROMY HOMILLADA



BILIS. LAKAS. GALING.

PACQUIAO MO LAHAT!

*MANNY PACQUIAO*
*Philippine Sportswriters*
*Association*
*2002 SPORTSMAN*
*OF THE YEAR*

*Sa iyong bilis, lakas at galing, naipakita mo sa buong daigdig ang tunay na diwa ng manlalarong Pilipino.*

*Ituloy ang tagumpay!*

CONGRATULATIONS from

Ibuprofen Paracetamol
Alaxan

KASAMA MO SA TAGUMPAY.

# Asian boxing here

MANILA will be hosting the 2004 Asian Boxing Championship from Jan. 10-18.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, said he has received the letter of confirmation from International Amateur Boxing Association president Anwar Chowdry.

"This is a great honor for the Philippines. The AIBA has acknowledged our experience in staging prestigious and big tournaments successfully," said Lopez, also the Federation of Asian Boxing secretary general.

The 2004 ABC will not only be a continental championship but will also serve as the first of three Asian region qualifying tournaments for the 2004 Athens Olympics.

The two other qualifying tournaments will be held in China in March and Pakistan in June also next year.

Lopez also announced a 14-tournament Asiad calendar, capped by the boxing event in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December and the World Championships in Thailand in July.

Meanwhile, the light middleweight (71 kg) division has been scratched from all AIBA tournaments. *Roy Luarca*

## SPORTSTV

**Compiled by L. Manguiat**

BASKETBALL: NBA - Washington vs New York, 8:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), Solar Sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Super Bowl Highlights, 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., ESPN

NFL Divisional Playoffs, 10 p.m. (r) and tomorrow at 5:30 a.m., ESPN

TENNIS: ATP Tata Open, 4:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports

Best of Wimbledon 2002, 10:30 p.m., Star Sports

## Double whammy

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

PRESIDENT Macapagal snubbed for the second straight year the PSA Awards on Friday at the Holiday Inn. Why a Philippine president cannot spare a few moments to be with the nation's athletes and sportsmen puzzles me no end.

GMA goes to weddings, climbs mountains and pays a visit to an imprisoned convict like Manero. But how come she can't find the time to be with our sports heroes on their night of nights? Just one night is all our athletes ask of you, Madame President.

GMA no longer needs the votes from the sports block come 2004? Because she will honor her promise not to run for president next year?

But if her absence was bad enough, how about Manny Pacquiao's no-show?

It sucks, to say the least.

You are the world boxing champion, you cite a bum stomach for your failure to show up and accept a well-deserved award as Sportsman of the Year, what does that make of you?

Like GMA's back-to-back folly, I also don't have words apt enough to describe the Pacquiao snub.

What I know is, a bum stomach is no reason at all. In the first place, that's not life-threatening. In the second place, one Lomotil, if not a pair of either Loremide or Diatabs, would be more than enough to lick his tummy's germs.

A bum stomach is more dangerous than punches he absorbs atop the ring? And yes, Pacquiao was set to enplane for Manila from Davao when he fell ill?

If you can believe that, then you can also believe that Marcos had nothing to do with Ninoy's death.

Why Pacquiao's trophy was still given to the boxer's manager added to the farce.

Bum call.

### STOCK MARKET SCENE

# PBA Draft today at Glorietta

**By June Navarro**

**EXPECT today's Philippine Basketball Association Annual Rookie Draft at the Glorietta Activity Center to depict a picture straight out of a stock market scene.**

The league's team owners, managers, coaches and player-agents are bound to portray the role of stock brokers plying their trade just to get those blue-chip shares.

Even the drafted rookies and their families wouldn't be spared from the wheeling and dealing as the teams pick and negotiate the most viable deal for themselves.

The Draft will be covered live by NBN-4 beginning at 2 p.m. with 62 rookie aspirants hoping to land anywhere among the 10 PBA teams. It will also be shown simultaneously on IBC-13.

It's no secret that Alaska, armed with the No. 1 pick, will grab De La Salle University standout Mike Cortez from the rookie lottery.

As early as last month, the Aces cut the suspense by announcing they will get the 6-foot Cortez at all cost.

"Aside from the need to get a legitimate point guard, we don't want to pass up the chance of grabbing the best amateur playmaker in the land," said Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo.

Cortez spearheaded the Green Archers to back-to-back UAAP championship titles (2000-2001) before deciding to bring his act into the professional basketball arena.

Picking at second, Barangay Ginebra bared its plans of getting 6-foot-6 Rommel Adducul while No. 3 Shell has no clear-cut picture of the player it wants to select.

The Turbochargers are interested in UAAP MVP Enrico Villanueva of Ateneo, MBA MVP Eddie Laure and Blu Detergent slotman Marlon Legaspi.

Talk N' Text (No.4), Sta. Lucia Realty (No.5), Purefoods, Batang Red Bull, Coca-Cola, San Miguel Beer and Alaska complete the list in the first round.

Among those who will most likely make it in the first round are 1998 MBA MVP John Ferriols, Reynel Hugnatan, Billy Mamaril, Adonis Sta. Maria, Bruce Dacia and 6-foot-9 Vincent San Diego.

## Cortez happy just to play

EMERGING tops in today's PBA draft isn't a big deal for Mike Cortez.

"It's okay if I'll not be the number one pick. I can be number two, three or even the 10th pick and be perfectly happy. All I want is be given the opportunity to play," the six-footer Cortez told the INQUIRER in an exclusive interview.

Barring any major trade, Alaska is set to make the former La Salle Green Archer playmaker the year's top draft pick.

This means, Cortez will be reunited with former La Salle star Don Allado.

With Cortez doing the playmaking chores, La Salle won the UAAP in 2000 and 2001. *Dennis U. Eroa*

## PSA hits Pacquiao...

From page A16

Holiday Inn and many others who wanted their photos taken with her, never mind the time. A true champion.

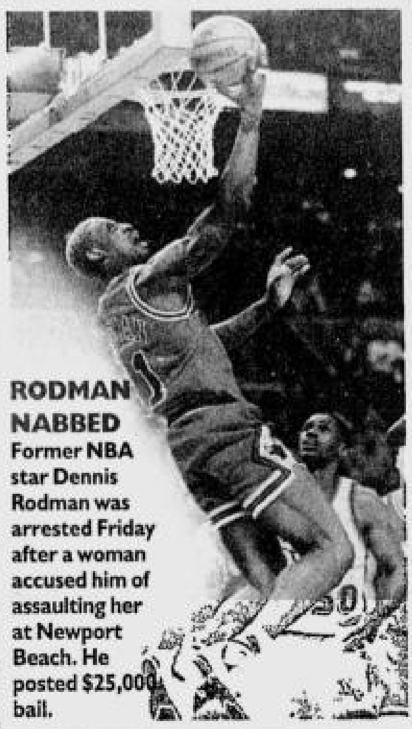
Buhain, gamely taking over as the event's guest speaker in the absence of President Macapagal, recounted how in his teens, while he was still a struggling age-grouper in swimming, he felt inspired by the sight of more established athletes receiving the PSA's highest award.

He vowed that, one day, he would be there on stage, to be the recipient of the prestigious award. He won it twice, in 1987 and 1991.

Prieto and Malonzo, already in the sunset of their lives, could have opted to take it easy and watch the proceedings on television. The PSA would have understood. But they chose to be counted.

Malonzo received the posthumous award in behalf of Zaldy Zshornack while Prieto, aided by a nurse and taking one small step at a time, gamely went up the stage to receive his lifetime achievement award. All were moved, to say the least, and gave the two a resounding applause.

As for Pacquiao, suffice it to say that the PSA won't take this snub sitting down. As they say, there are many ways to skin a cat, especially the arrogant breed.



**RODMAN NABBED** Former NBA star Dennis Rodman was arrested Friday after a woman accused him of assaulting her at Newport Beach. He posted $25,000 bail.

### PBL RESULTS

(Lucena City)
ICTSI 99 Sunkist 69
Dazz 62 Welcoat 49

### GAMES TOMORROW

(Pasig Sports Center)
3 p.m.--LBC-Batangas vs ICTSI-La Salle
5 p.m.--Blu vs Dazz

### NBA RESULTS

Indiana 101, Orlando 97, OT; New Jersey 94, Toronto 79; Golden State 104, Washington 99; New York 114, Philadelphia 112; Atlanta 84, Houston 75; Dallas 103, Boston 78; Minnesota 115, Sacramento 109 OT; Milwaukee 93, Chicago 85, OT; Detroit 101, New Orleans 99, OT; Utah 92, Miami 76; Phoenix 96, Memphis 90; Denver 82, Portland 81; L.A. Clippers 90, Seattle 88; L.A. Lakers 115, Cleveland 99 *AP*

### RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Alert One 2. Apray Special 3. Sweet Inspiration
Race 2--1. Lucky Choice 2. Great Year 3. Virgin Atlantic
Race 3--1. Conquer D Rose 2. Golden Sunshine 3. Dulce My Love 4. Truly Ajay
Race 4--1. Stop Talking 2. Super Dancer
Race 5--1. Princess Inn 2. Hello Peter 2. Demolition Jack 4. Will to Fight
Race 6--1. Exchange Deal 2. Green Buck 3. Parola Sunrise
Race 7--1. D' Optician 2. Ground Fighter 3. Lady Darinda 4. Play By Play 5. Witch Craft
Race 8--1. Hyperbid 2. Lyonnais/Catwalk Pia 3. Golden Ballet
Race 9--1. Classic Model 2. Dynamite Jack 3. Cycloneferros 4. Santa Fe 5. Pep Up
Race 10--1. Eyewitness 2. Simply Great 3. Enjoy the Moment 4. Stradivarius 5. Stock Rising
Race 11--1. Lord of All 2. Silver Story 3. Sunny Contender 4. Bull Rider
Race 12--1. Gossip Column 2. Black and White 3. Royal Angel 4. Turkish Delight 5. Chances Are
Race 13--1. Society's Pleasure 2. Trick Shot 3. Lady De Gold 4. St. Emilion 5. The Bronx
Race 14--1. Sky Wind 2. Jackpot 3. Test Run 4. Hindbaan Boy 5. Claro Di Ba 6. Kokoro

# PSC launching institute of sports with ₱15-M budget

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission is set to formally launch the Philippine Institute of Sports this April in four major venues with a budget of P15 million.

PSC chair Eric Buhain said the Institute, which is hoped to revolutionize sports education in the country, will have its main venue at the Philsports in Pasig while other sites will be placed in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The PSC chair said he's just waiting for an Executive Order to finally launch the Institute although there are pending bills creating a sports institute both in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"Obtaining an EO is much quicker and we need it as soon as possible because there is an urgent need to launch the sports institute which would complete the PSC's program for sports development," said Buhain.

There will be two sites in Luzon, namely the Teacher's Camp in Baguio City and Lingayen, Pangasinan.

The Abellana Sports Complex will be the Visayas venue, while Mindanao will have the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

Buhain said P15 million was allocated for the Institute which will teach aspiring athletes and coaches training and educational aspects of sports like sports medicine, sports management, diet, physical fitness, among others.

"Being a former athlete, I realize the importance of having a sports institute that would help athletes and coaches with the academic side of sports," said Buhain.

"You see, sports is not just what we see on the field. It entails a lot of preparation which sometimes require long hours in classrooms," he added.

The PSC chief said the Institute will be one of the agency's top priorities this year aside from the preparation for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December and grassroots programs like the Palarong Pambansa slated in Lanao del Norte this summer.

## Moto riders feted next week

THE NATIONAL Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA), the country's highest governing body in local motorcycle sports, will host and honor its most outstanding performers during the year 2002 annual awards night early next week.

NAMSSA president Ken Falco will present the trophies to the four winners of the different motorcycle events duly sanctioned by the NAMSSA, the legitimate motorcycle sports body affiliated with the FIM (Federation Internationale de Motorcyclisme), Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Sports Commission and recognized by the Philippine House of Representatives.

Joining Falco are Asian Motorcycle Union vice president, Asian Motocross and Enduro Commission president and NAMSSA secretary general Macky Carapiet and NAMSSA vice president Arthur Valdez.

To be honored are:

- Jolet Jao, 'Superbike Rider of the Year' who topped the 2002 Shell Superbike Championships held at the BRC.

Jao won 11 of 12 races held this year and posted one of the biggest winnings margins in history.

The multi-awarded campaigner from Marikina City also put up a creditable performance in his debut race in the FIM Asia Road Racing Championships held in Sepang F1 Circuit in Sepang, Malaysia. Jao also won the Maxi Scooter Series.

- Bembie Atienza, "Motocross Rookie of the Year" who dominated the MP Turbo National Supercross Series.

## Chua to defend ladies title

NEXT WEEK'S 41st Philippine Amateur Ladies Open golf championship at the Manila Golf Club course inside Forbes Park will feature one of the strongest lineups in recent years with Heidi Chua expected to have her hands full defending the crown.

Chua, who won at her Wack Wack home course, will not only contend with her Busan Asian Games teammates–Ria Denise Quiazon and Carmelette Villaroman–but a horde of challengers including a big foreign contingent.

Though the US-based Quiazon is her most likely opponent for the crown, Thailand and Malaysia have confirmed the participation of their national players that should make the 54-hole competition on Jan.15-17 organized by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines very keen.

The latest figures indicate that there are already 82 ladies from eight countries in the list and among them are ex-pro Yvette de Leon, who won in 1987, jungolf sensation Jayvie Agojo and another ex-titlist Aileen Yao.

The event is returning to its old home, the Manila Golf Club, just in time with the reopening of the club's full 18 holes following the renovation of the 12th and 13th holes.

The opening ceremonials will be held Tuesday with Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, Manila Golf Club president OV Espiritu, ICTSI president Ricky Razon and Gina Tuason, president of WGAP, doing the honors.

## Gan stuns big guns at Midlands

OLIVER Gan upset the big guns with a three-stroke victory in the centerpiece championship division of the recent Tagaytay Midlands leg of the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour.

Gan, a 20-year-old long-hitter making the most of his familiarity with the course, spoiled national player Jay Bayron's bid for another club victory with his 36-hole effort of 74-77-151 giving him his first major title.

Bayron, who was seeking to add a new feather to a collection of titles he had won earlier at Riviera and Malarayat, could only shoot 78-76-154 while Antonio Legarda had 84-79-163 for third place.

Also winning in their respective divisions were Katy Katigbak in Class A, Tony dela Cruz in Class B, Lernie Segaya in Class C. In the ladies division, jungolfer Remijin Camping was the Class A champion while Arlette Dizon ruled Class B.

The event is part of a three-play series marking Samsung's major involvement in the local golf scene. The co-sponsors are Taylor Made adidias, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers, Gatorade, Fila, Custom Clubmakers and Greg Norman Shirts by Planet Sports.

The Samsung Amateur Tour eliminations wind up at Mt. Malarayat on Feb. 6-7 before all leg winners assemble for the battle royale again at the Tagaytay Midlands in March.

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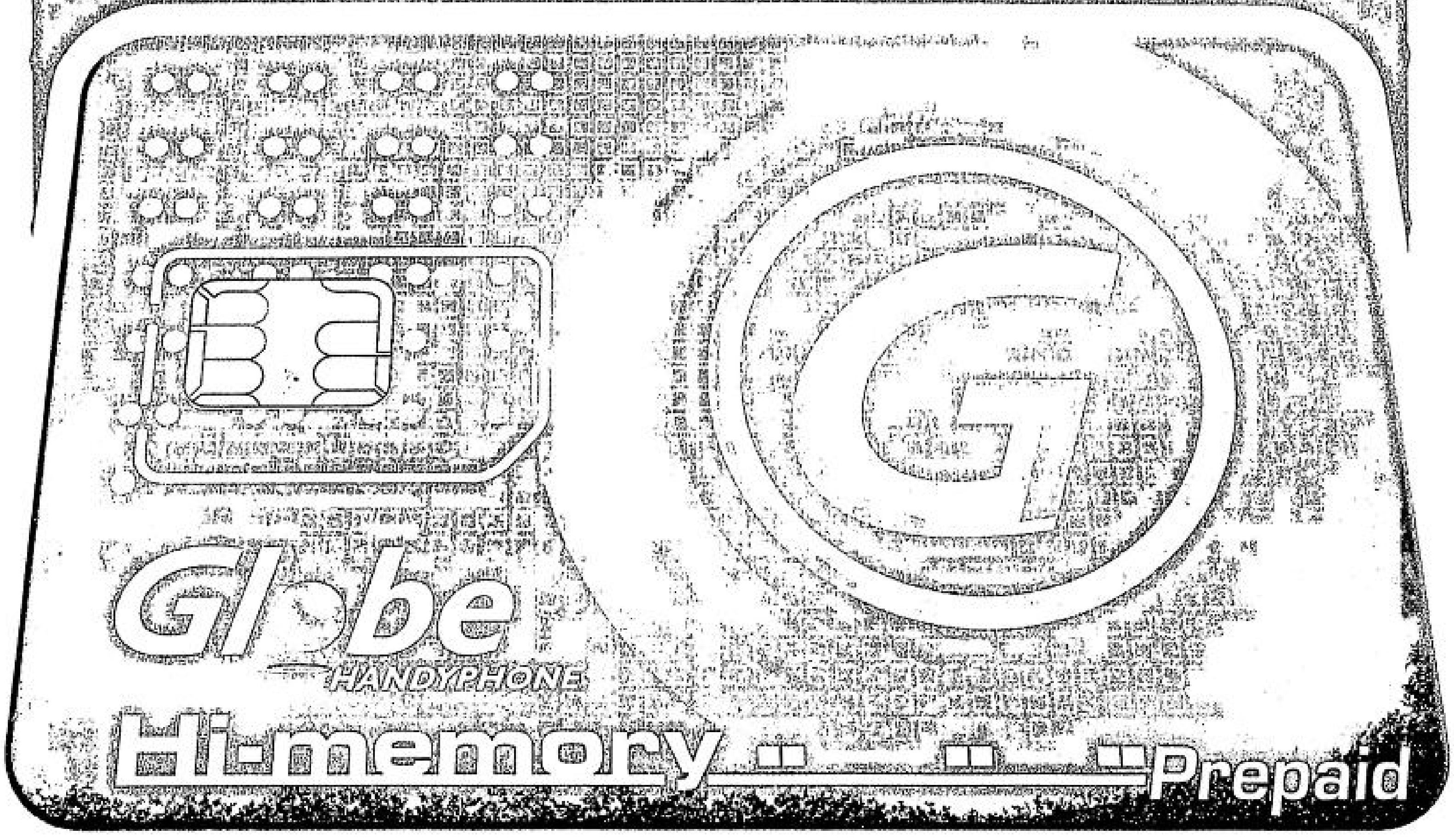

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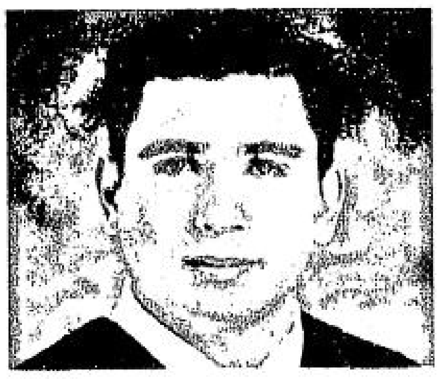
# Top bar exams bet slain



Llamas

- Jose Luis Llamas, 26, was in top 25 of his class at Ateneo
- Killer escapes on foot, leaves behind motorbike
- Victim loved children, was popular and very friendly

STORY AND PHOTO ON PAGE A20

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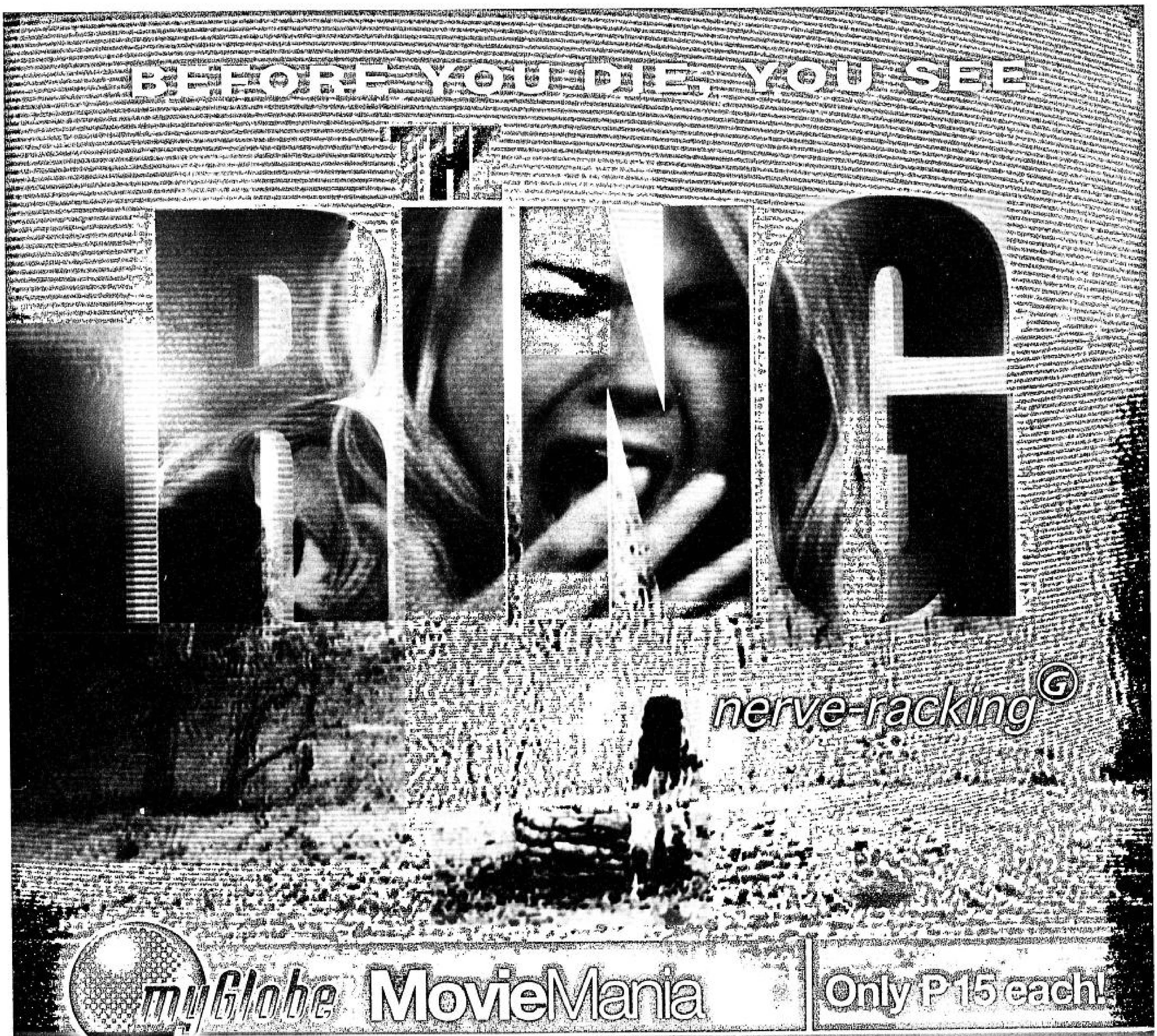

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# Top bar examinations bet shot dead

By Leila B. Salaverria

JOSE Luis R. Llamas, who had aimed to top this year's bar exams, would never know the results.

Llamas, a 26-year-old Ateneo Law School graduate, was shot dead on Friday afternoon along Taft Avenue near Gil Puyat Avenue in Pasay City during a traffic altercation with an unidentified suspect.

Llamas, or Jay to friends and family, was on his way to the De La Salle University, where he finished his political science and economics undergraduate degree, to apply for a teaching position while waiting for the results of the bar exams, which will come out in March.

He never made it to the De La Salle campus.

While on his way, he accidentally bumped a motorcycle, investigation showed.

Llamas and the motorcycle driver then got into an argument.

As the exchange of words heated up, the motorbike rider pulled out a 9mm gun and shot Llamas thrice.

The law graduate was hit twice in the head and once on the left side of his body.

He died instantly, said Senior Supt. Oscar Catalan, Pasay Police Chief.

The suspect, whom witnesses described as being around 40 years old, dark-skinned, curly-haired, sporting a mustache, and 5'9" tall with a muscular built, fled on foot.

The suspect reportedly walked away with a slight limp probably a result of his having fallen off from the motorcycle.

The suspect however left behind his blue Kawasaki motorcycle with plate no. VM-2047.

The police chief said the license plate was yellow and is usually issued to tricycles.

Probers were checking the motorcycle for fingerprints and tracing the owner of the license plate.

A manhunt for the suspect is also ongoing.

The Llamas' family lamented that the very friendly and popular young man would never live out his dreams.

He would have been the first lawyer in his family, said Llamas' cousin Johann Ruiz.

According to the victim's aunt-Millie Matias, who was very close to him, Jose Luis was very serious about pursuing a career in law.

Being in the top 25 of his graduating class in Ateneo, Llamas was aiming to top the bar exams.

"Jay was very disciplined. When he was studying for the bar, we could not talk to him. He would lock himself up in his room to study," she said.

He also planned to go to New York for further law studies after getting some experience in the Philippines. He also intended to join his father and older brother who both work abroad.

Llamas was a member of the Aquila Legis fraternity, and was also part of the law school basketball team.

"He really loved to play basketball," said Ruiz.

Both Matias and Ruiz say that Llamas was very easy to get along with.

"We all loved him. He had a lot of friends. He was also very good with children," said Matias.

She added that Llamas was an altar boy when he was younger.

His body now lies at the St. Alphonsus Liguori in Magallanes Village, Makati where he used to serve. He would have turned 27 in June.

Matias recalled that, on the day Llamas was killed, he was supposed to drive his aunt and mother to a hospital for a regular check-up, but he begged off because he had to go to the De La Salle University along Taft Avenue.

Rued the despairing aunt: "He was at the wrong place at the wrong time."

FROM
NDOLENCE

**AN AQUILA** Legis fraternity brother of Jose Luis Llamas views his remains at the St. Alphonsus Liguori in Magallanes Village, Makati.

JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

## METROBRIEFS

### Cop stabbed in Diliman

INVESTIGATORS believe that a love affair gone sour was what led to the stabbing Wednesday of PO1 Armando Peralta, 27, of Diliman, Quezon City. The man who stabbed the officer, Kenneth Pallorino, 23, also of Diliman, was cornered and mauled by residents in the area. According to SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda of the Central Police District, Peralta, assigned to the National Capital Region Police Office, was attending a wake near his house when the suspect appeared behind Peralta and stabbed him twice in the back at around 10:35 p.m. Residents pounced on the suspect before he had a chance to escape. Pallorino was later turned over to police. *Alcuin Papa*

### Man killed in Tondo

REYNALDO M. Saliente, 29, did not wake up from his sleep after a man stabbed him dead in front of his nephews inside his room in Tondo, Manila on Wednesday. According to Detective Carol Macawile of the Western Police District, Saliente, 29, of Building 31, Vitas, Tondo, was asleep in his apartment with his nephews at around 3 p.m. Wednesday when his neighbor Domingo Quinton, 26, sneaked into his room and, without saying a word, stabbed the victim in the chest. Saliente was not able to make a sound but his nephews saw the assault and started crying out loud. The cries woke up Saliente's housemate, Manuel Guerrero, who saw the suspect rushing out of the door. When he checked Saliente, the victim was already heaving his last breath. Police are now hunting down the suspect. *Philip Tubeza*

### Rapist gets life in Makati

JUDGE Sixto Marella of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 138 on Thursday sentenced Jonathan V. Inocencio to life imprisonment for raping a woman who was looking for her husband. Court records showed that the victim was looking for her husband near the Philippine Racing Club on the morning of Aug. 17, 2002, when she came across a drunk Inocencio, who then followed her. The victim said Inocencio pinned her against a wall on D. Gomez St. in Makati, forced her to undress and raped her. But Inocencio denied the victim's statements, and said it was she who asked him to accompany her in her search for her husband. He added that it was also the victim who voluntarily undressed. In an 8-page ruling, Judge Marella cited Inocencio's lack of credibility in denying the woman's accusation. *Leila Salaverria*

### Couple attacked in QC

ISMAEL Victoria, 64, stabbed his neighbors Marciano and Benigna Suarez over a land dispute in Quezon City Wednesday night, police said. Marciano, 73, of Batasan Hills, Quezon City, died at the Fairview General Hospital. His wife Benigna, 73, is in the same hospital receiving treatment for a stab wound in the mouth. SPO1 Fedencio Basibas of the Central Police District said the victims and the suspect had been having a long running feud over land. Things came to a head Wednesday night when the suspect went to the victims' house and confronted them. Victoria lost his temper, pulled out a knife and attacked the Suarez couple, killing Marciano and injuring Benigna. Responding policemen arrived and managed to arrest the suspect. *Alcuin Papa*

## *UN computer scholarship*

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Application form could be requested through Tel. 8127733 or e-mail college@fsunph.every1.net or visit FSUN office at 19th Floor, Cityland 10, Tower 1, H.V, dela Costa St., cor. Ayala Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

# Maganto to Cardeño: You've one last chance

By Leila B. Salaverria

CHIEF Supt. Romeo Maganto is giving Supt. Rafael Cardeño one last chance.

Maganto said yesterday that Cardeño, prime suspect in Baron Cervantes' murder, could still negotiate for his surrender if he wants.

If no negotiation pushes through, Maganto's hunt for the fugitive cop would be pursued.

"I'm still open to a negotiation for voluntary surrender from Cardeño," Maganto told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "I'm also open to anybody who will act as conduit or mediator between me and Cardeño."

Maganto said that he would also welcome it if Cardeño surrenders to someone outside of the task force.

"He could surrender to his mistahs if he wants and I would have no problem with that. That would still be a fulfillment of our mission," Maganto said.

Cardeño had earlier sent surrender feelers through his lawyer Homobono Adaza. Among the conditions for Cardeño's surrender are the non-use of handcuffs when he is presented to authorities and his detention in Camp Crame.

But Maganto said that if he arrests Cardeño through his own operations, said conditions would no longer apply.

"When we first negotiated, I fulfilled my end of the bargain. He did not," he said.

But Maganto added he was not blaming Adaza as he believes it was Cardeño who decided not to turn himself in.

"(Not surrendering) would be to his disadvantage. In criminal investigation, there is the assumption that flight means admission (of a crime)," he said.

If Cardeño believes he is innocent, Maganto said he should come out and declare it in court.

**Cardeño**

On Thursday, Malacañang jacked up to P1M the bounty for anyone who could give information that would lead to Cardeño's arrest.

It also came a day after the fugitive cop ignored the one-week deadline set for his surrender.

PAGING BONG REVILLA

# Products piracy in RP shocks U.S. official

By Oliver Teves
*Associated Press Writer*

A US TRADE official visiting a suburban shopping mall selling pirated software, music and movies yesterday expressed shock at the Philippine government's weakness in cracking down on copyright violators.

William Lash III, US assistant secretary of commerce for market access and compliance, toured the Virra Mall in suburban San Juan, known as a haven for computer products, cellular phones and dirt-cheap pirated CDs and DVD movies. He said he wanted to show how easy it is to find pirated products.

He showed journalists copies of five DVD movies he bought for less than 100 pesos (US$2) each, including the latest James Bond film, "Die Another Day," and the box office hit "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," which just started showing in Manila theaters Saturday.

"I didn't have to ask anybody. They came to us," Lash said. "We were even more shocked. This is the most open violation we have ever seen."

"If we could do this, why can't the Philippine authorities make the seizures, make the arrests, get these products off the market?" he asked.

Lash, on an official visit to the country, said Friday the Philippines will likely remain on the priority US watchlist of countries where there are rampant violations of intellectual property rights.

He said Philippine authorities made numerous raids and arrests of video, audio and software pirates last year, but none of the 280 cases filed in court has resulted in a conviction.

"We are disappointed over this," he said.

Lash said US companies lost around US$116 million to violations of intellectual property rights in the Philippines last year, while the Philippine government lost some US$25 million in taxes.

For instance, a Windows XP bootleg CD sells for 100 pesos (less than US$2), a fraction of the 7,000 pesos (US$130) for a genuine copy.

Lash left Manila shortly after the mall stop to continue a three-nation Asian swing that will also take him to Malaysia and Thailand. He was also in Manila last year to review the country's enforcement of intellectual property rights regulations.

Washington moved the Philippines to its priority watchlist in 2001, despite the country's passage of an intellectual property rights protection law.

The Philippines has been identified as a major center of film and music piracy by the Washington, D.C.-based International Intellectual Property Alliance.

Government officials were not immediately available for comment.

WLLIAM Lash III, U.S. assistant secretary of Commerce for Market Access and Compliance, shows to journalists pirated copies of DVD movies he bought for less than 100 pesos (less than US$2) each, including the James Bond film "Die Another Day" and "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

# 'Ernie Maceda' jailed for robbery

By Jerome Aning

A NAMESAKE of former Senator Ernesto Maceda and three other men were arrested for robbing a female overseas worker in Sta. Cruz, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Suspects Maceda, 20, of Cordillera Street, La Loma, Quezon City, and Roderick Alvarez, 24, Eric Cagmot, 19, and Mary Jane dela Cruz, 18, all residents of Manila, have been booked for robbery and thrown behind bars.

Victim Venus Korea, 27, of Tatalon, Quezon City, told police that, as she was walking on Rizal Avenue corner Carriedo Street at around 1:30 a.m., Maceda approached her and poked a dagger at her.

Korea said Maceda's three other companions then approached her and took her necklace and bag, which contained her cell phone and cash.

The victim quickly reported the incident to the Western Police District Station 3.

Its commander, Supt. Armando Sebastian, sent his men to seek out the suspects. They were all rounded up within the hour.

Korea's valuables were recovered and returned to her.

# Whose body parts are these scattered all over QC?

By Alcuin Papa

LIKE pieces of a human jigsaw puzzle, severed parts of at least two human bodies were found in separate places in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

Two male torsos, a leg and an arm were recovered by Quezon City police investigators, who suspect that the parts belonged to summary execution victims. The male torsos had no heads, arms, and legs.

At around 4:30 a.m. yesterday, Artem Ormocio, a scavenger at the Payatas dumpsite, found an amputated left leg and right arm in a plastic garbage bag.

The arm bore tatoo markings "BNG" and "YO."

At around 7 a.m., Elizabeth Palisoc, streetsweeper with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, was about to start work in her assigned area on Edsa near Quezon Avenue when she stumbled on a torso of a human male near the sidewalk.

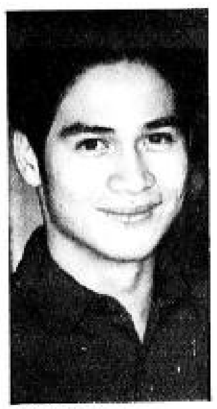
Palisoc immediately called for police assistance. Investigators found the word "flower" tatooed on the back of the left shoulder.

At around 8:30 a.m., passersby on Edsa near the MRT North Avenue station found another male torso.

Tatooed on the torso were the markings "Alas" and "BCJ Boy Turla" on the right breast and back of the left shoulder.

Police have already sent the body parts to the PNP Crime Lab for forensic examination.

Pag-Asa ng Masa! magbabalik na!



PASCUAL

# Piolo album launch

WITH his trophy as best supporting actor for the Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Dekada '70," Piolo Pascual has proven himself when it comes to acting.

Today, as he celebrates his birthday, Piolo will prove that he is good in singing, as well. He will launch his self-titled debut album on the Sunday noontime program, "Asap," on ABS-CBN.

The album is bannered by the carrier single, "Till There Was You," with 11 other tracks that showcase Piolo's versatility as a singer.

One of the cuts is "Kung Ako Ba Siya," composed by Arnold Reyes and interpreted by Piolo during the "Himig Handog Love Songs 2002" finals.

The song which is about unrequited love, won for Arnold the "Himig Handog" buyers choice award.

Also included in Piolo's album are five songs by prolific singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid—"Kailangan Kita," "Ikaw ang Buhay Ko," "Ako'y sa 'Yo Lamang," "Ikaw Pa Rin Pala" and "Tell Me Why." In "Tell Me Why," Ogie collaborated with Apo's Danny Javier, who wrote the lyrics.

Piolo's friends in The Hunks—Jericho Rosales, Carlos Agassi, Bernard Palanca and Diether Ocampo—join in the fun as they perform a live version of Louie Ocampo's "Kahit Isang Saglit," the theme of Piolo's movie of the same title with Judy Ann Santos.

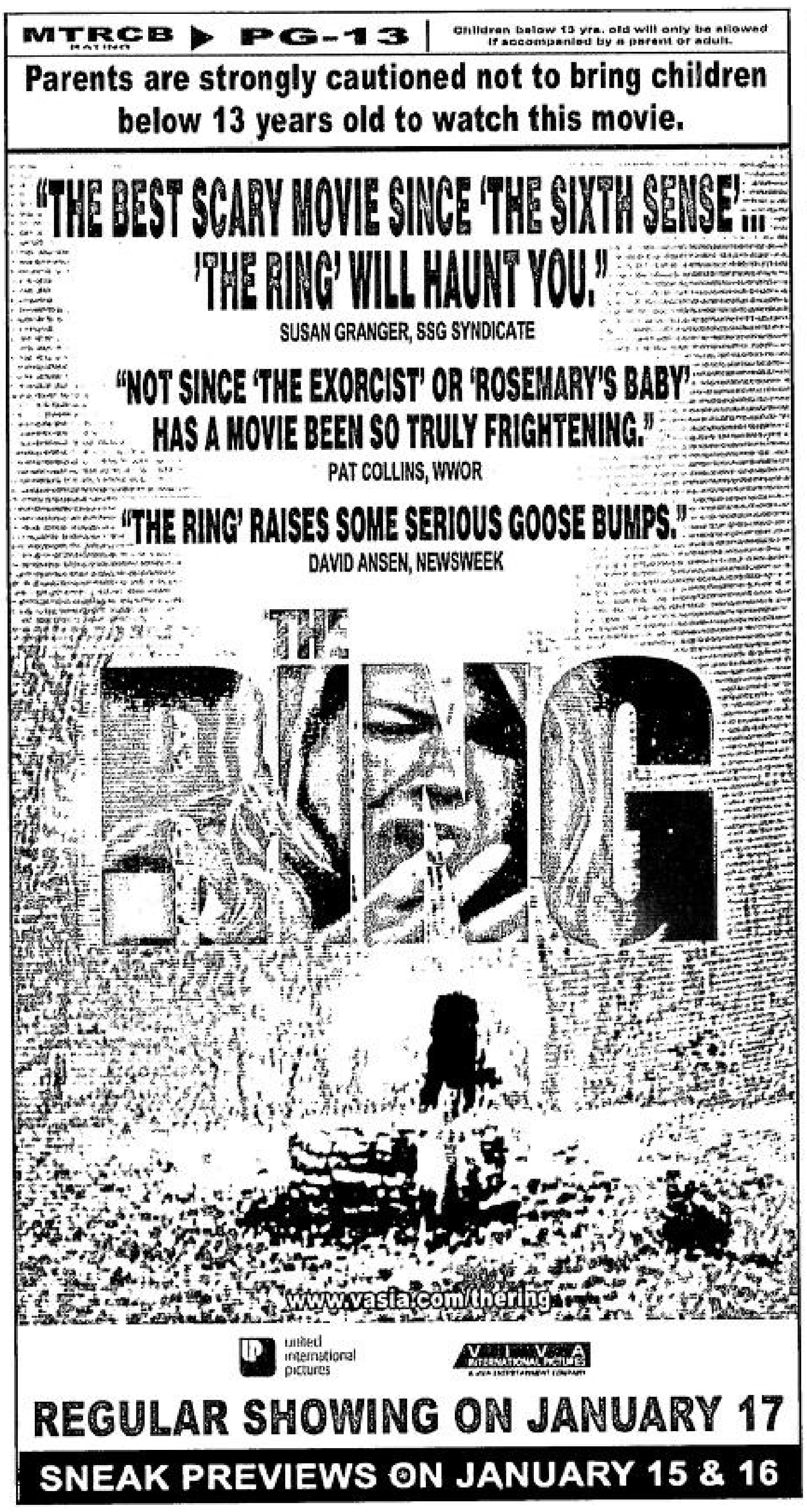
Other tracks are "Nag-iisa" by Jonathan Florendo, "Kaibigan Mo Ako" by Aaron Paul del Rosario, "Sana Ikaw" by Lucien Letaba and a revival of the True Faith hit, "Muntik Nang Maabot ang Langit," with music by Ferdie Marquez and lyrics by Medwin Marfil.

Bonus cut is a cinema mix of the carrier single, "Till There Was You," composed by Meredith Wilson.

For the album, Piolo got to work with some of the best arrangers and musicians in the industry, such as Marc Lopez, Noel Mendez, Arnel Buena, Homer Flores, Ric Mercado, Arnold Cabalza, Marvin Querido and Alvin Nuñez.

For his birthday celebration and album launch on "Asap," Piolo will perform some of the cuts from his album, with special guest singers.

Piolo's album is under the OG Records label, produced and distributed by Star Records.



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

Parents are strongly cautioned not to bring children below 13 years old to watch this movie.

"THE BEST SCARY MOVIE SINCE 'THE SIXTH SENSE'... 'THE RING' WILL HAUNT YOU."
SUSAN GRANGER, SSG SYNDICATE

"NOT SINCE 'THE EXORCIST' OR 'ROSEMARY'S BABY' HAS A MOVIE BEEN SO TRULY FRIGHTENING."
PAT COLLINS, WWOR

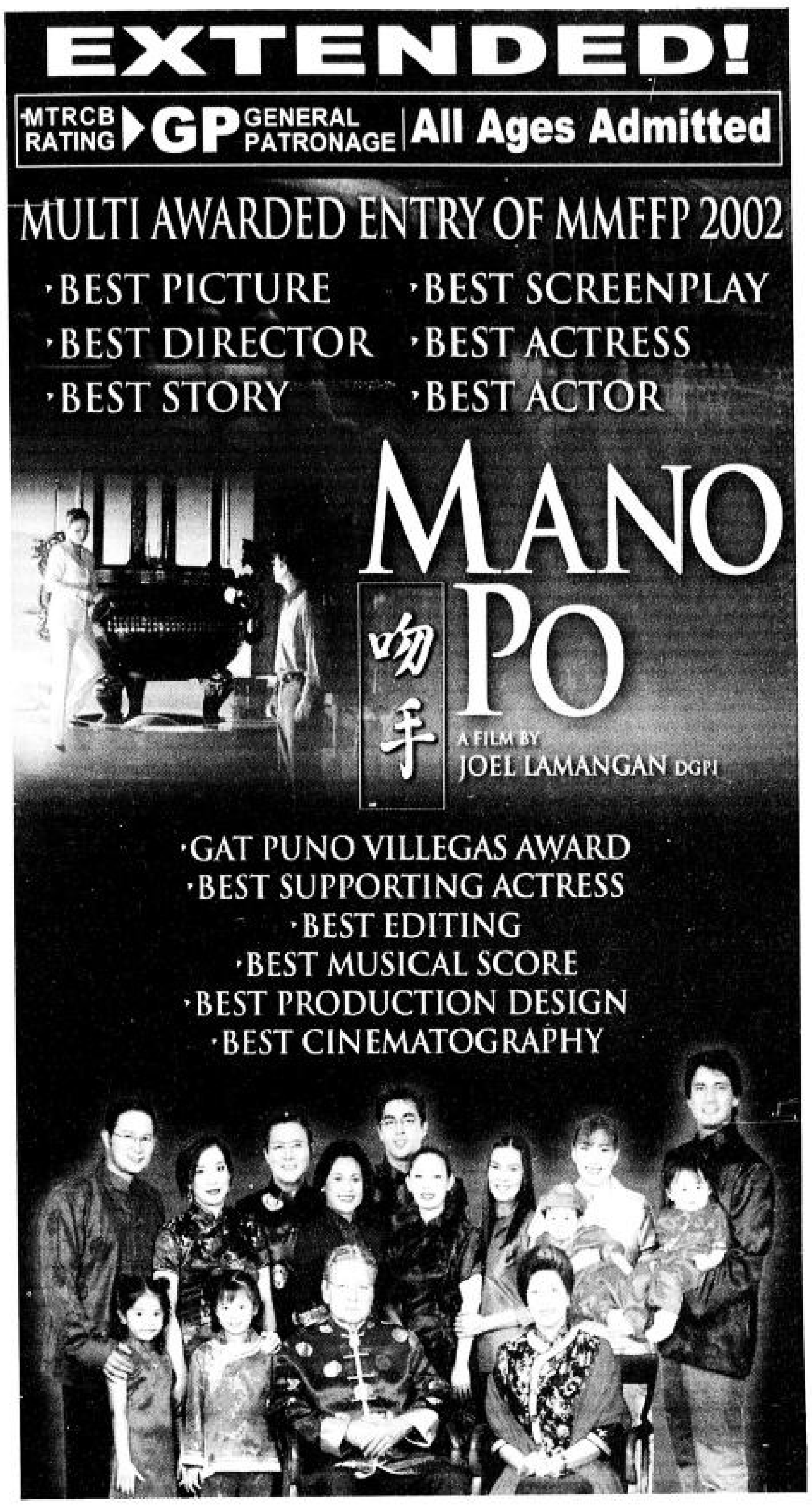
"'THE RING' RAISES SOME SERIOUS GOOSE BUMPS."
DAVID ANSEN, NEWSWEEK

THE RING

www.vasia.com/thering

united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

REGULAR SHOWING ON JANUARY 17
SNEAK PREVIEWS ON JANUARY 15 & 16



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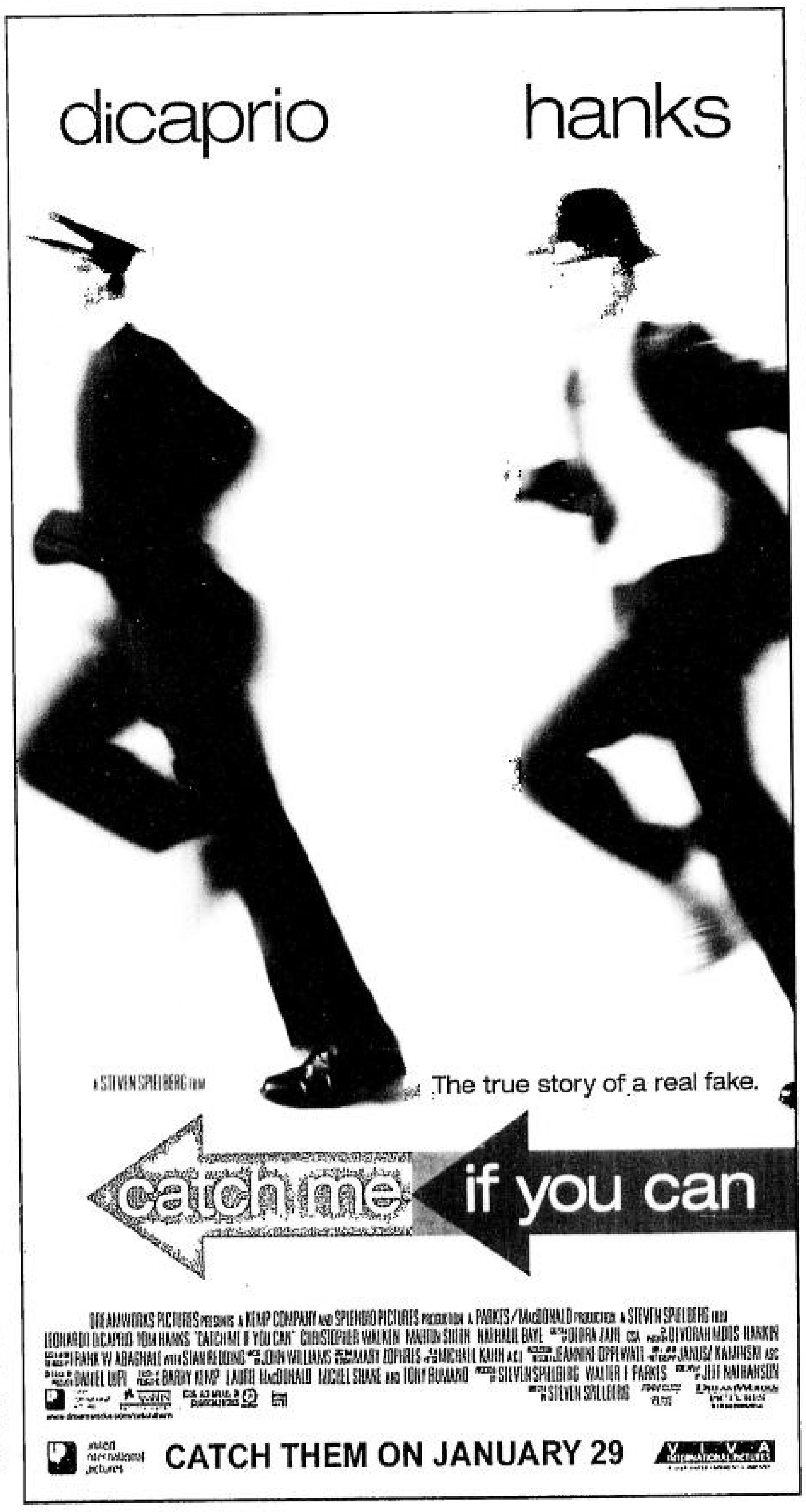
·BEST PICTURE ·BEST SCREENPLAY
·BEST DIRECTOR ·BEST ACTRESS
·BEST STORY ·BEST ACTOR

MANO PO
吻手
A FILM BY JOEL LAMANGAN DGPI

·GAT PUNO VILLEGAS AWARD
·BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
·BEST EDITING
·BEST MUSICAL SCORE
·BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN
·BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

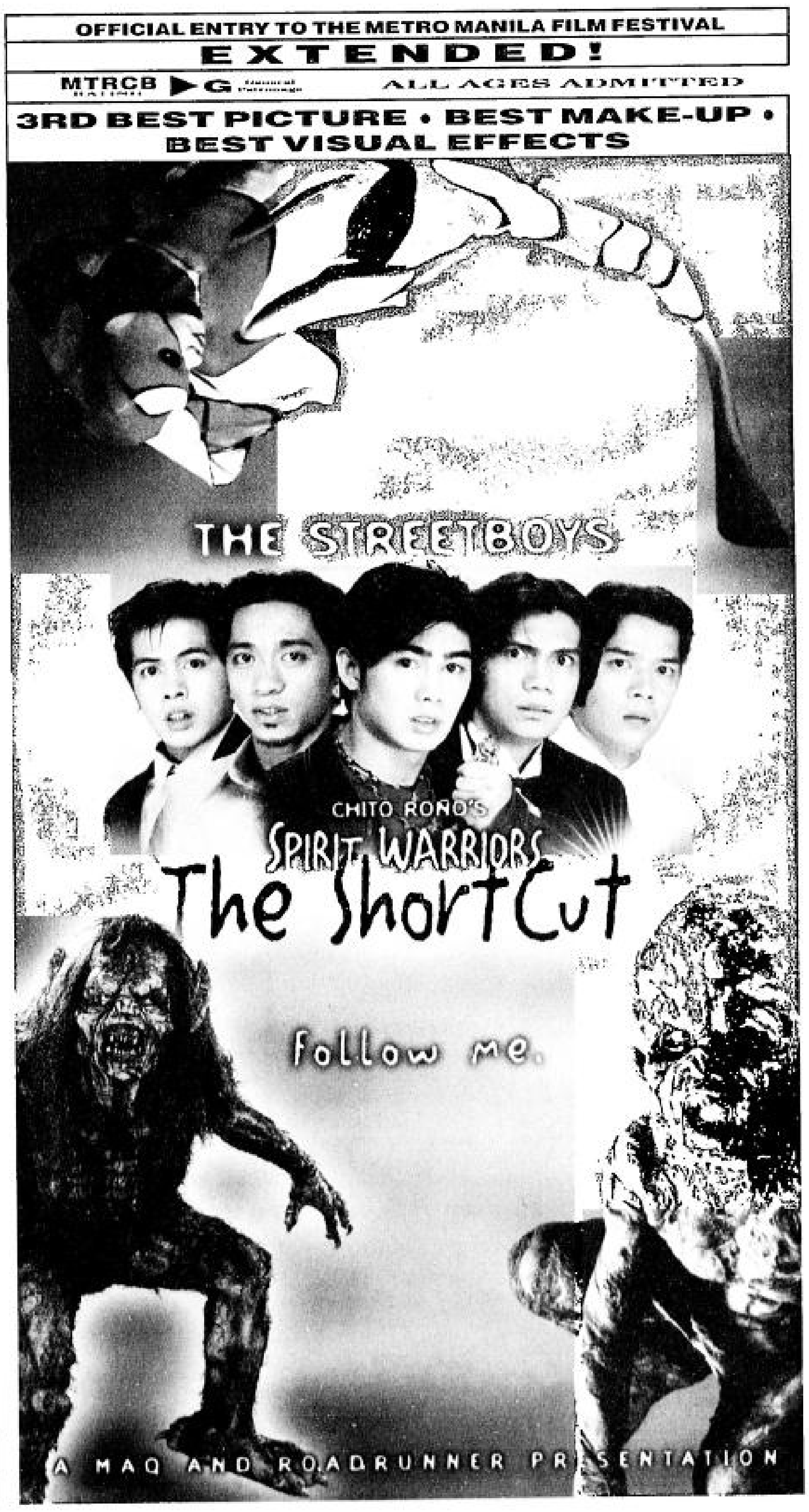


dicaprio hanks

A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
The true story of a real fake.

catch me if you can

united international pictures
CATCH THEM ON JANUARY 29
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES



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CHITO ROÑO'S
SPIRIT WARRIORS
The ShortCut
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Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

## AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | G4 GLORIETTA 4 | GB1 GREENBELT 1 | GB3 GREENBELT 3 | ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 MANO PO | 1 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS | 1 RING (ORIGINAL JAPANESE VERSION) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 | THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 | THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS |
| 2 HALF PAST DEAD | 2 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS | THE HOT CHICK (SNEAK PREVIEW) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 | THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:10, 3:40, 7:10, 10:40 | THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS |
| THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS | THE LORD OF THE RINGS TWO TOWERS 11:30, 3:10, 6:50, 10:30 | THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 10:45, 2:15, 5:45, 9:15 | THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:50, 4:20, 7:50, 11:20 | THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS |
| 4 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS | 4 RING (ORIGINAL JAPANESE VERSION) | | THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 1:30, 5:00, 8:30, 12:00 | THE HOT CHICK (SNEAK PREVIEW) |
| | 5 HALF PAST DEAD | | 5 HALF PAST DEAD 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 | 5 HALF PAST DEAD |
| | 6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS | | | |
| | THE HOT CHICK (SNEAK PREVIEW) | | | |

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com

*GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema

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# MMTA
## METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
# MOVIE GUIDE
## NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

**Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA**
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 (SDDS) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 3 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 4 GOLD (DTS-ES) | MANO PO |
| 5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 6 GOLD (SDDS) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) | DAKADA '70 |
| 8 | LASTIKMAN |
| 9 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 10 | HALF PAST DEAD |

**Pearl Plaza Cinemas**
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 (DTS) | RESERVE |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| 5 | RESERVE |
| 6 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| Golden Pearl THX | RESERVE |

**Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3**
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 | KERIDA |

**starmall Movies**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | LASTIKMAN |
| 3 | MANO PO |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 5 | KERIDA |

**METROPOLIS star**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANO PO |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 3 | LASTIKMAN |
| 4 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 5 | KERIDA |
| 6 | HALF PAST DEAD |

**M star**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | AGIMAT |

**PREMIERE CINEMA** THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
LORD OF THE RING

**Center Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANO PO |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |

**FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC**
tel 930.9515

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | |
| 3 | KERIDA |

**Sunshine**
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

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| 1 | |
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**GOTESCO CINEMA**

**Gotesco City**
(Manila) tel 734.8588

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 4 | KERIDA |
| 5 | MANO PO |
| 6 | LASTIKMAN |
| 7 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 8 (SDDS) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 9 (DOLBY) | LORD OF THE RING |

**Gotesco Caloocan**
tel 362.3508

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | RESERVE |

**Gotesco Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KERIDA |
| 2 | LASTIKMAN |
| 3 | MANO PO |
| 4 (SDDS) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 5 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 6 (DOLBY) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 7 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 8 | AGIMAT |
| 9 | DEKADA '70 |

**Gotesco Commonwealth**
tel 951.0082

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 (SDDS) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 3 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 4 (DOLBY) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 5 | KERIDA |

**Gotesco Ortigas**
tel 656.6795

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 4 | KERIDA |
| 5 (SDDS) | LORD OF THE RING |

**Universal**
(Manila) tel 733.2470

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |

**Sampaguita**
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |

**Dilson**
(Manila) tel 734.7724

| | |
|---|---|
| Dilson | KERIDA |
| Lords | KERIDA |
| Jennet | |

**Mandaluyong**
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 3 | KERIDA |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN |

**Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto**
**SUPER CINERAMA**
tel 733.4238

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 3 | LASTIKMAN |
| 4 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 5 | KERIDA |

**FRC Cinema**
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

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|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |

**Berma Cinema**
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KERIDA |
| 2 | HULA MO HULI KO |

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
**Araneta**

**MALL CINEPLEX 7**
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242.8400

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANO PO |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 (SDDS) | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 5 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 6 | DEKADA '70 |
| 7 | LASTIKMAN |

**FarmersPlaza CINEMAS**
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |

**CINEMA 2000**

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 , 534.2198

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RING |

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 3 (DOLBY) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 4 | HALF PAST DEAD |

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MANO PO |
| 2 (DOLBY) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 3 (DTS) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN |

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 3 (DOLBY) | MANO PO |
| 4 | RESERVE |

**Cinema 2000 MetroTown**
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIMAN |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIOR |
| 3 (DOLBY) | HOME ALONG DA RIBER |
| 4 (DTS) | MANO PO |

**Magic Star Cinema**
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 2 (DTS) | LASTIKMAN |
| 3 | HULA MO HULI KO |

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 (DTS) | KERIDA |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN |

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 (DTS) | LASTIKMAN |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 5 | KERIDA |

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | LASTIKMAN |
| 3 | KERIDA |

**Olivarez Los Baños**
tel (049) 249.2558

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 | LASTIKMAN |

**Mega Center Mall**
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 2 | MANO PO |
| 3 (DTS) | HOME ALONG DA RIBER |
| 4 (DOLBY) | LASTIKMAN |

**Cabuyao**
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | RESERVE |
| 2 (DTS) | RESERVE |

**Emperor**
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 2 | LASTIKMAN |
| 3 | MANO PO |

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |
| 2 | LASTIKMAN |
| 3 | HULA MO HULI KO |
| 4 | HOME ALONG DA RIBER |

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY EX) | LORD OF THE RING |
| 2 | LASTIKMAN |
| 3 (DTS-ES) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT |

**Cine Nepo Mall**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 322-3571

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RING |
| 3 (DOLBY) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RING |

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

**FESTIVAL CINEMA**
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 65035-71 to 72

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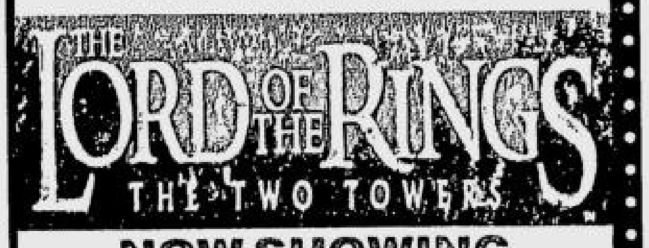
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE TWO TOWERS

NOW SHOWING

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# SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
## NOW SHOWING

**SM CITY BACOOR**
4173888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KERIDA |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 4 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 5 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 6. | LASTIKMAN |
| 7 | MANO PO |
| 8 | DEKADA '70 |

**SM CENTERPOINT**
7149522 -7161416

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 2 | DEKADA '70 |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 4 | KERIDA |
| 5 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 6 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 7 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 8 | DIE ANOTHER DAY |
| 9 | MANO PO |
| 10 | LASTIKMAN |

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**
9350749

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | AGIMAT |
| 2 | DEKADA '70 |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 4 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 5 | MANO PO |
| 6 | LASTIKMAN |
| 7 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 8 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 9 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 10 | KERIDA |
| 11 | LASTIKMAN |
| 12 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |

**SM CITY MANILA**
5239240

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 2 | RING |
| 3 | MANO PO |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN |
| 5 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 7 | KERIDA |
| 8 | LASTIKMAN |
| 9 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 10 | DEKADA '70 |
| 11 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 12 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |

**SM MEGAMALL**
6331801 - 6329401

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 4 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 5 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 6 | RING |
| 7 | MANO PO |
| 8 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 9 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 10 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 11 | LASTIKMAN |
| 12 | KERIDA |

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA**
9295452

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 3 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 4 | MANO PO |
| 5 | RING |
| 6 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 7 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 8 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |

**SM SOUTHMALL**
8068888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | DEKADA '70 |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN |
| 5 | HOME ALONE DA RIBER |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 7 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 8 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 9 | MANO PO |
| 10 | KERIDA |

**SM CITY CEBU**
2313876

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | LIKE MIKE |
| 3 | REPLI-KATE |
| 4 | DEKADA '70 |
| 5 | LASTIKMAN |
| 6 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 7 | MANO PO |
| 8 | HALF PAST DEAD |

**SM CITY ILOILO**
3208422

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DEKADA '70 |
| 2 | CLOSED |
| 3 | SWIMFAN |
| 4 | MANO PO |
| 5 | LASTIKMAN |
| 6 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 7 | CLOSED |
| 8 | REPLI-KATE |

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**
7128016

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 3 | MANO PO |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| 5 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 6 | LASTIKMAN |

**SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT**
8294975

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 4 | HALF PAST DEAD |

**SM CINEMA TUTUBAN**
2514302

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 2 | KERIDA |
| 3 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN |

**SM CITY DAVAO**
2976998

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 2 | SWIMFAN |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| 4 | DEKADA '70 |
| 5 | MANO PO |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |

**SM BICUTAN**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS |
| 2 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 3 | LASTIKMAN |
| 4 | LORD OF THE RINGS |

**SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LONG TIME DEAD |
| 2 | LASTIKMAN |
| 3 | MANO PO |
| 4 | SHAOLIN SOCCER |

**THE PODIUM CINEMA**
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-69

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS: The Two Towers<br>11:30 FS/12:00 MF/3:40/7:20/<br>10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/2:10 END |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS: The Two Towers<br>10:50 FS/11:20 MF/3:00/6:40/<br>9:50 LFS/10:20 LMF/1:30 END |

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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# MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
call-a-movie: 536- 7812
## NOW SHOWING

**Galleria** 632- 9115- 16 / 633- 7641 loc. 279

| | |
|---|---|
| THX | LORD OF THE RINGS II - 11:00 AM (MF); 2:30 PM; 6:00 PM; 9:30 PM (LMF) |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 3 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 | RING (JAPANESE VERSION) |
| 5 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 7 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 8 | MANO PO |
| 9 | DEKADA '70 |
| 10 | LASTIKMAN |

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema / P65 tlevel cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am-4pm ( EXCEPT HOLIDAYS )

**Ermita** 536 -7809- 12

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 2 | MANO PO |
| 3 | LASTIKMAN |
| 4 | RING (JAPANESE VERSION) |
| 5 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 7 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |

**Metro East -** Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LASTIKMAN |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 3 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 4 | DEKADA '70 |
| 5 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 7 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 8 | MANO PO |

**Novaliches** 935- 3229 - 30

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 3 | DEKADA '70 |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN |
| 5 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 7 | MANO PO |
| 8 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |

**Malabon** Citisquare 288-0985 / 288-2575

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 3 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN/KERIDA |

**Star Mills-** Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 / 961- 5318 / 5270

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | MANO PO |
| 3 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 4 | LASTIKMAN |
| 5 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 6 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |

**Imus** 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 3 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 4 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 5 | LASTIKMAN |
| 6 | KERIDA |

**Sta. Rosa** Laguna

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS II |
| 3 | LASTIKMAN |
| 4 | MANO PO |
| 5 | KERIDA |

**Bacolod** 441- 0453 / 0459

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOME ALONG THE RIBER |
| 2 | VAMPS |
| 3 | MANO PO |
| 4 | DEKADA '70 |
| 5 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 6 | LASTIKMAN |

**Iloilo** 336- 8077 - 78

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HULA MO HULI KO |
| 2 | LASTIKMAN |
| 3 | SWIMFAN |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 5 | REPLI-KATE |
| 6 | MANO PO |

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# 'Lastikman' clicks with viewers

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

"LASTIKMAN" may have been a belated starter in the 2002 Metro filmfest, but it's proven itself to be one of the festival's most popular offerings, especially for young viewers. The movie appeals to kids because of its deft special effects, most of them of the stretching, bouncing and flying sort, as befits its story about the exploits of a superhero who has the "magical" properties of rubber.

The film's lead character, Hilario, is a weakling who is bullied by some nasty students in school—until he is magically coated with rubber and is transformed into everybody's protector and defender.

Hilario is played in his youth by **Oyo Boy Sotto**, the son of star-producer **Vic Sotto**, who portrays the character and his Lastikman alter ego in adulthood. Introduced in this film, Oyo Boy does well and serves notice that we'll be seeing more of him on the big screen from here on in, with or without his dad.

Fact is, Oyo Boy is better suited to play a superhero than Vic, whose physique has seen better days. But Vic's comical take on Lastikman excuses his lack of physical dynamism and vitality, so no great harm is done.

The special effects in the movie's action scenes are both entertaining and generally, professionally-made. The film has problems mostly in the storytelling and logic departments, with some of its developments stretching viewers' credulity to the max.

First, it's utterly incredible that most of the other characters in the film don't suspect that Hilario is Lastikman. It's as clear as day, because, as Lastikman, Hilario's identity is hidden only by a slim pair of dark glasses. Are these people blind and deaf, or what?

Next, **Jeffrey Quizon**'s shift from good guy to horrible villain is awkwardly achieved. At the start, he's Hilario's best physics student, but after he's tricked into thinking that Lastikman has turned nasty and beaten him up, he reinvents himself into the flying, death-dealing Stryker, who blows up everything and everyone he sees.

It turns out that he was deceived into thinking ill of Lastikman by a fellow student played by **Ryan Eigenmann**, just because Jeffrey failed to do Ryan's term paper!

Also incredible is Ryan's clout with the forces of evil. He's only a student, yet he's made to behave like a crime lord, with thugs constantly at his beck and call.

The use of lightweight villains like Jeffrey and Ryan further weakens the conflicts in the film, which aren't that compelling to begin with.

Some confusion is also provided by the way that Jeffrey's parents are characterized—ostensibly, they're God-fearing folks, but it turns out that they're involved in tape and disc piracy, and have ordered Lastikman's humiliation or execution because he's drastically reduced their profits.

The parents are played by **Elizabeth Oropesa** and **Pocholo Montes**, who are given very little to do in this film, more's the pity. One wonders why Oropesa accepted this insignificant and colorless role, in the first place.

Also rather decorative is **Donita Rose**'s role as Hilario's singer-girlfriend. Donita may be pretty and perky here, but this film does nothing to boost her movie career.

On the other hand, **Michael V** enlivens the procedings with his performance as a bumbling TV reporter who has a funny penchant for being at the wrong place at the right time, if you get our drift.

As ,you can see, "Lastikman" has its weaknesses as well as its strengths, but its special effects carry the day, nonetheless.

## Movies on TV

FILMS on the HBO channel, Monday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m., "Slap Shot." 4 p.m., "Billy Madison." 5:30 p.m., "Town & Country." Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 11:30 a.m., "Chicken Run." 3 p.m., "Snow Falling on Cedars." 11:30 p.m., Philadelphia." Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 5:15 p.m., "National Lampoon's European Vacation."

On Cinemax: Monday, Jan. 13 at 12:45 p.m., "Final Destination." Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 8:15 a.m., "The War of the Worlds." 11:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Fantasy World." 2 a.m., "When Worlds Collide." Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 1:30 p.m., "Mercy Streets." 1:55 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Creature Comforts." 3:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Road Rage." 4:15 a.m., "Sleepy Hollow."

## Feedback

FROM **Jhaeyas Atienza**: "*Nabasa ko po yung* comment *niyo* regarding *kung alin ang mas angat,* 'Dekada '70' *o* 'Mano Po.' *Naniniwala ako sa inyong pananaw hinggil kung sino ang mas magaling na aktres, si* **Vilma Santos** *o si* **Ara Mina**. *Pareho kong napanood ang dalawang pelikula* and I strongly believe that Vilma deserves to be the Metro filmfest's best actress.

"*Matagal po namin hinintay ang* movie *na ito at di rin kami nasiyahan sa disisyon ng mga hurado na di ito napili sa mga* major awards, especially *sa* best picture *at* best actress.

"As long as *mayroong* credible writer *na tulad ninyo, asahan ninyo palagi ang suporta namin. Mabuhay ka at mabuhay inyong. makabuluhang panulat!*"

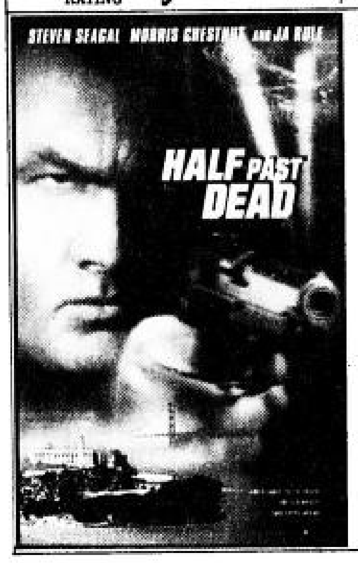
Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

| | |
|---|---|
| **ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7** | |
| Ali 1 | MANO PO |
| Ali 2 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| Ali 3 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| Ali 4 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| Ali 5 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| Ali 6 | DEKADA '70 |
| Ali 7 | LASTIKMAN |
| **FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS** | |
| Farmers 1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| Farmers 2 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| **ARANETA COLISEUM** | |
| JAN 13 & 15 | NCA 7 COCK DERBY |
| JAN 21, 22, & 24 | WORLD SLASHER CUP 2003 |
| FEB 15 | ABBA TRIBUTE |
| **ELEPHANT WORLD** | |
| JAN. 12 | 3 PM / 5 PM |
| JAN. 16 | 10 AM / 3 PM |
| JAN. 17 | 10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM |

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

| | |
|---|---|
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | MASARAP NA PUGAD / SEX LOVE |
| ODEON | HALF PAST DEAD |
| ODEON-2 | PAMASAK BUTAS / EVANGELINE 14 |
| ROBEN | KERIDA |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | RAIN OF FIRE 'THE TOUCH |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET-2 | LASTIKMAN |
| QUEZON-1 | KERIDA |
| REMAR | HALF PAST DEAD |
| REMAR-2 | KERIDA |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| B | HULA MO, HULI KO |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | HALF PAST DEAD |
| CINEMA-2 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | DEKADA '70 |
| CINEMA-2 | KERIDA |
| CINEMA-3 | SPIRIT WARRIORS 2 |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | DIE ANOTHER DAY |
| CINEMA-6 | AGIMAT |
| CINEMA-7 | SHAOLIN SOCCER |
| CINEMA-8 | LASTIKMAN |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| CINEMA-11(SDDS) | HALF PAST DEAD |
| CINEMA-12 | LORD OF THE RINGS 2 |
| CINEMA-14 | MANO PO |
| CINEMA-15 | LASTIKMAN |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN** | |
| CINEMA 1 | DIE ANOTHER DAY |
| CINEMA 2 | BAHID |
| CINEMA 3 | HARRY POTTER |
| CINEMA 4 | CHANGING LANES |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


STEVEN SEAGAL MORRIS CHESTNUT AND JA RULE
HALF PAST DEAD

*Special New Year Presentation!*

Steven Seagal back in Action

International action superstar Steven Seagal is back with a vengeance. This time he plays undercover FBI agent Sascha Petrosevitch in the brand-new non-stop, slam-bang action blockbuster from Columbia Pictures, "Half Past Dead."

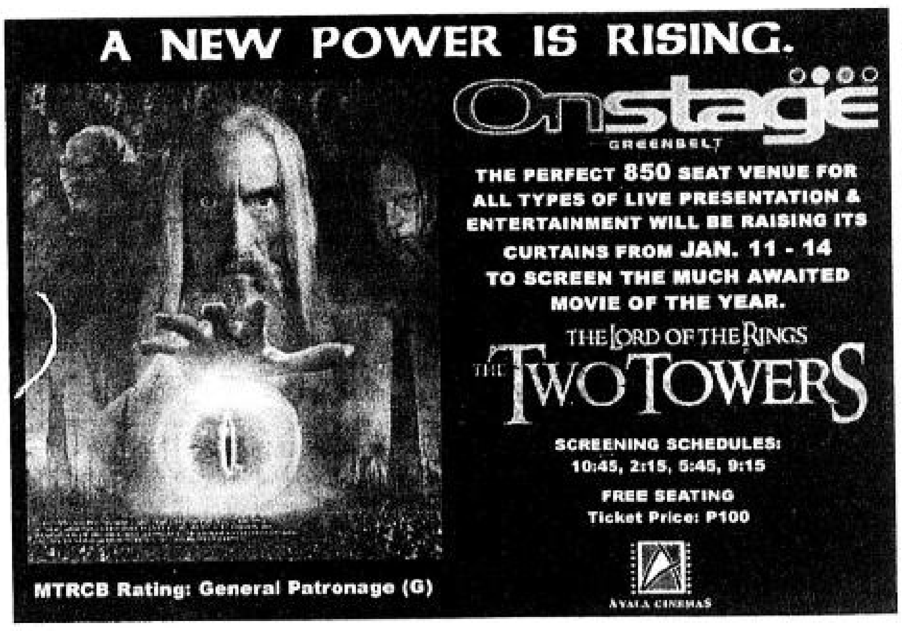
The California Penal Authority has reopened Alcatraz, the most notorious prison in history. A disgruntled prison bureaucrat-turned-criminal mastermind heads a renegade commando team to infiltrate the high-tech fortress in order to force a death-row inmate to reveal the whereabouts of $200 million worth of gold.

Seagal teams with rap artist Ja Rule to rally the Alcatraz inmates to stop the invaders – before they murder the Supreme Court Justice, who is in The Rock to witness an execution.

The fast-paced, action-packed thriller also stars sexy Filipino Hollywood actress Nia Peeples as a deadly gun-firing, knife-throwing martial artist.

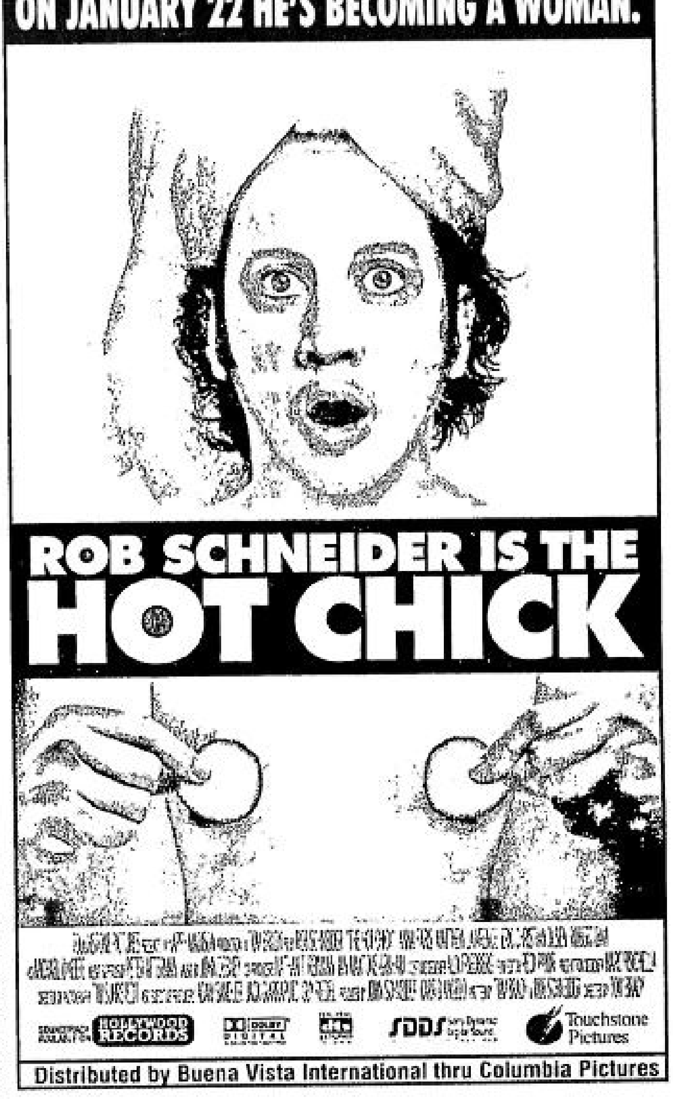
NOW SHOWING

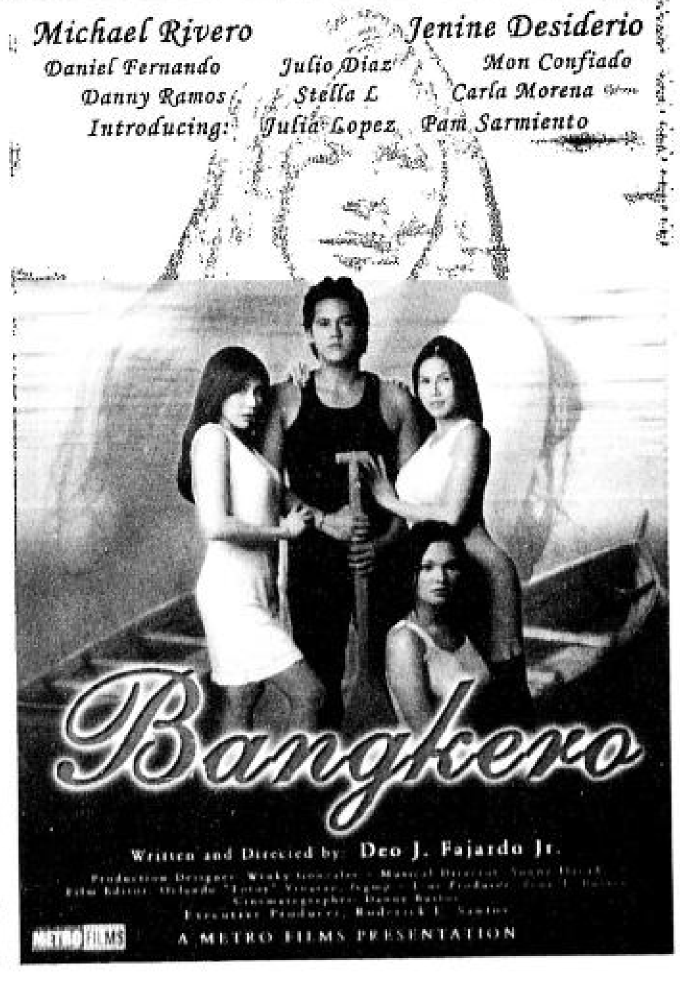
Watch it where it all started.
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
RING
ORIGINAL JAPANESE VERSION
Jan 11 to 22
Screening Times:
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)


A NEW POWER IS RISING.
Onstage GREENBELT
THE PERFECT 850 SEAT VENUE FOR ALL TYPES OF LIVE PRESENTATION & ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE RAISING ITS CURTAINS FROM JAN. 11 - 14 TO SCREEN THE MUCH AWAITED MOVIE OF THE YEAR.
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE TWO TOWERS
SCREENING SCHEDULES:
10:45, 2:15, 5:45, 9:15
FREE SEATING
Ticket Price: P100
AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

NOW SHOWING AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS

THE LORD OF THE RINGS THE TWO TOWERS
EXPLORE THE WORLD OF MIDDLE EARTH
A JOURNEY TO NEW ZEALAND
WIN A TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND AT AYALA CINEMAS.
SEE POSTERS AND LEAFLETS FOR MORE DETAILS.
Promo runs from Jan 11 to Feb 9, 2003.
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0102. Series of 2003
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!
AYALA CENTER
TOWN

SNEAK PREVIEWS TOMORROW!
BE THE FIRST TO SEE THE HOTTEST COMEDY IN TOWN!
MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
FIRST, HE BECAME A GIGOLO.
ON JANUARY 22 HE'S BECOMING A WOMAN.

ROB SCHNEIDER IS THE HOT CHICK
HOLLYWOOD RECORDS
Touchstone Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

OPENS
JANUARY 15
WEDNESDAY

Michael Rivero
Jenine Desiderio
Daniel Fernando
Julio Diaz
Mon Confiado
Danny Ramos
Stella L
Carla Morena
Introducing: Julia Lopez
Pam Sarmiento
Bangkero
Written and Directed by: Deo J. Fajardo Jr.
METRO FILMS
A METRO FILMS PRESENTATION

LAWYER Doy Leachon (center) in Barangay Bucayao, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro for Katarungang Pambarangay training 2002.

# Mindoro lawyer offers legal counseling program on radio

IN CALAPAN City, open your radio at 7 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and you hear that familiar voice.

No, he is not Attorney Batas, but a true-blue Calapeño lawyer dishing out legal advise. He goes by the name of Atty. Salvador "Doy" Leachon, the man behind the legal counseling program, "Tayo at ang Batas," over dwIM-930.

Attorney Doy as he is fondly called, is presently the city legal officer of Calapan City. He is your typical small city officer with a big heart. You can run to him, talk to him, cry to him about all your legal woes, but most especially you can trust that he will ensure that you will get the best service there is.

Attorney Doy is not just a lawyer, he is a lawyer with a heart.

A full-blooded Mindoreño, he opted to return to his hometown even when a clearer future awaits him in Manila.

The youngest among seven children, Attorney Doy was born and raised in Puting Tabing and Lalud Calapan, Oriental Mindoro. It is on its pristine waters and clean air where he spent most of his childhood, moving to Manila only for his college education.

In the 1999 bar exams, considered the toughest in the history, where only 16 percent passed, Attorney Doy got a grade of 81.6 percent, paving the way for him to be immediately hired in a special-task force formed by then President Estrada.

Mindoro never really lost the guy to the more profitable shores of Manila. In 2001, Mayor Arnan Panaligan, not wanting to let go of such talent, hired and offered Attorney Doy to be part of a team that will work in Calapan. Believing that his co-Mindoreños need him most, Attorney Doy accepted the offer.

As the city legal officer, he has to attend to at least 20 clients a day with varied legal problems. Still, he feels that there are more Calapeños out there whose needs the city government has to address.

With the help of the city mayor, Attorney Doy launched another first in city governance, the Katarungang Pambarangay training program 2002.

The primary objective of the training program is to devolve the settling of disputes in the barangay level thereby enhancing the mandate of the local government code of 1991.

The training program has so far brought Attorney Doy to more than 20 barangays in Mindoro. What makes him inspired in doing this is the fact that people are really interested, especially with regard to their rights.

The Katarungang Pambarangay training program opened doors even for the poor folks of Calapan. More people now swarm Attorney Doy's office to request him to conduct seminars and even to congratulate him for empowering barangay officials and members through these seminars.

With his radio program, "Tayo at ang Batas," Attorney Doy is able to extend not only his legal services, but the barangay training program as well. The local government code becomes more real and relevant to Calapeños now.

ROBINSONS CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE TWO TOWERS
RESERVE YOUR SEATS
@ GALLERIA THX CINEMA 1
Screening Time: 11:00AM (MF); 2:30PM; 6:00PM; 9:30PM (LMF)
For information, please call:
687-3184/632-9116

# Boomland carnival fun continues

THE FUN continues even after the holidays as Boomland, formerly known as Boom na Boom, the country's premiere amusement theme park, remains open until today, Jan. 12.

Located at the CCP Complex along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City, Boomland hosts several Pinoy games such as the *palo sebo* and the giant *pabitin*.

Boomland brings together a combination of traditional and modern forms of fun and entertainment. Fun rides include Airlift, Traffic Jam, Cable Car, Demolition Circuit, Vortex and Spiral Scream.

With Bump-A-Float, you get to collide with one another on water. The Flying Carpet lets you experience what it feels like to be Aladdin and Jasmine, minus the Genie.

There's also an area with a typical carnival. Several booths can be found where one can throw pins at balloons attached to the wall, shoot at toy soldiers or fling rings to capture P500 bills.

Added attractions are Villa Muerta (House of the Dead), The Lost Temple and Kart Trak (Karting).

Aside from the fun rides and attractions, Boomland has a Market Square, the ideal place for rummaging around for trinkets and trifles. Located near the entrance, it also houses the wall climbing area where one can rise up to the challenge of conquering the 24-feet wall and experience a breathtaking view after.

Boomland is organized by the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. (Petco) and sponsored by City Lite 88.3, Joey 92.3, Pepsi Cola, Purefoods and Trapik.com.

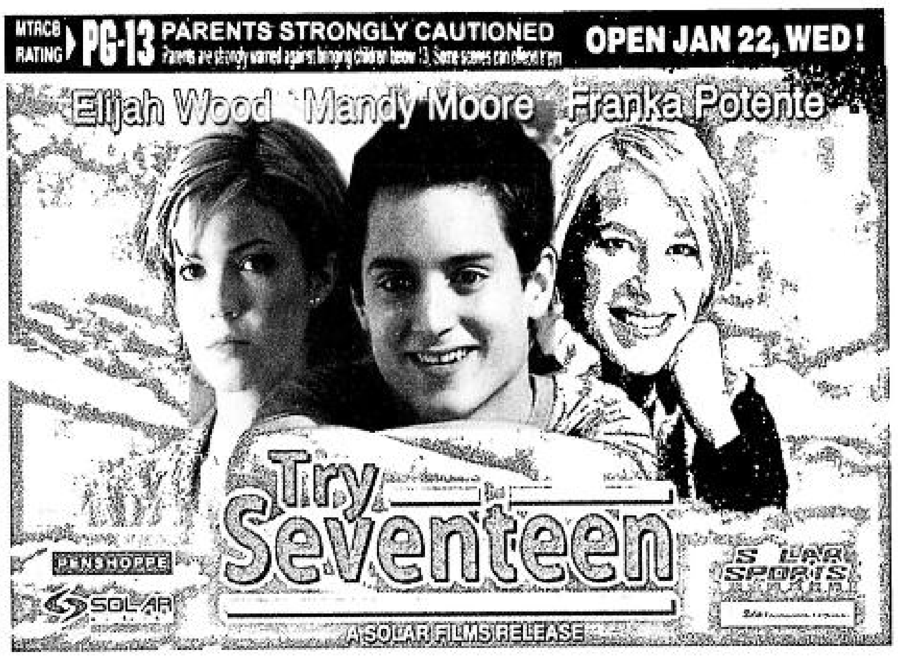
The park is open from 4 p.m. onwards.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 LORD OF THE RINGS 2
11:00, 2:40, 6:20, 10:00
GP
CINEMA 2 HALF PAST DEAD
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
P13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496
MUSIC MUSEUM
JAN 16, 2003 PARLIAMENT SYNDICATE 9:00 PM
JAN 17, 2003 BANDS 8:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LORD OF THE RINGS "TWO TOWERS"<br>GP<br>1:10,4:30,7:50 | LORD OF THE RINGS "TWO TOWERS"<br>GP<br>11:10,2:30,5:50,9:10 | LORD OF THE RINGS "TWO TOWERS"<br>GP<br>11:50,3:10,6:30,9:50 |
| LORD OF THE RINGS "TWO TOWERS"<br>GP<br>10:30,1:50,5:10,8:30 | HALF PAST DEAD<br>P13<br>11:30,1:30,3:30,<br>5:30,7:30,9:30 | LORD OF THE RINGS "TWO TOWERS"<br>GP<br>12:30,3:50,7:10,10:30 |

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.



MTRCB RATING PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
OPEN JAN 22, WED!
Elijah Wood Mandy Moore Franka Potente
Try Seventeen
PENSHOPPE
SOLAR
SOLAR SPORTS
A SOLAR FILMS RELEASE

SUSMARYOSEP... THE ORIGINAL IS BACK!
DUE TO INSISTENT DEMAND BY THE HORRIFIED PUBLIC... THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE FILM THAT STARTED THE "FEAR FEVER" IN METRO MANILA IS NOW ON ITS RETURN ENGAGEMENT AT SM MEGAMALL SM MANILA SM NORT GLORIETTA-4 GREENBELT ROBINSON GALLERIA ROBINSON ERMITA

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Experience Fear Worse Than Nightmare!!!
Ring
Circle of Evil
"There's a video. If you see it you have to show it to someone else. After seven days... you die!

# E! airs celebrity blunders

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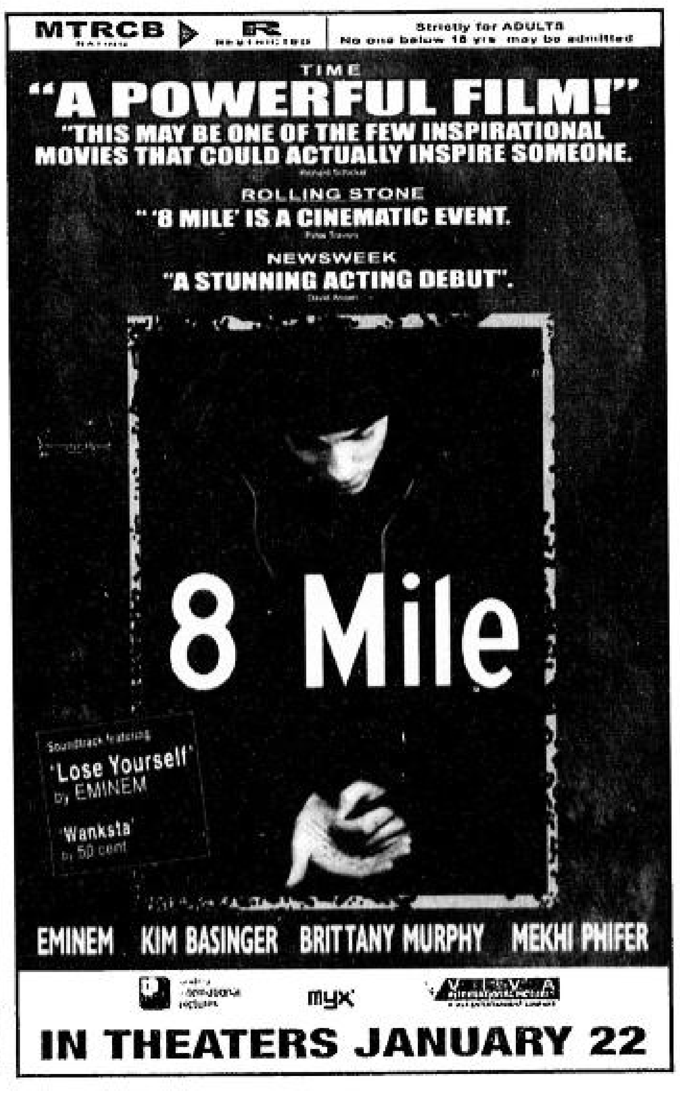

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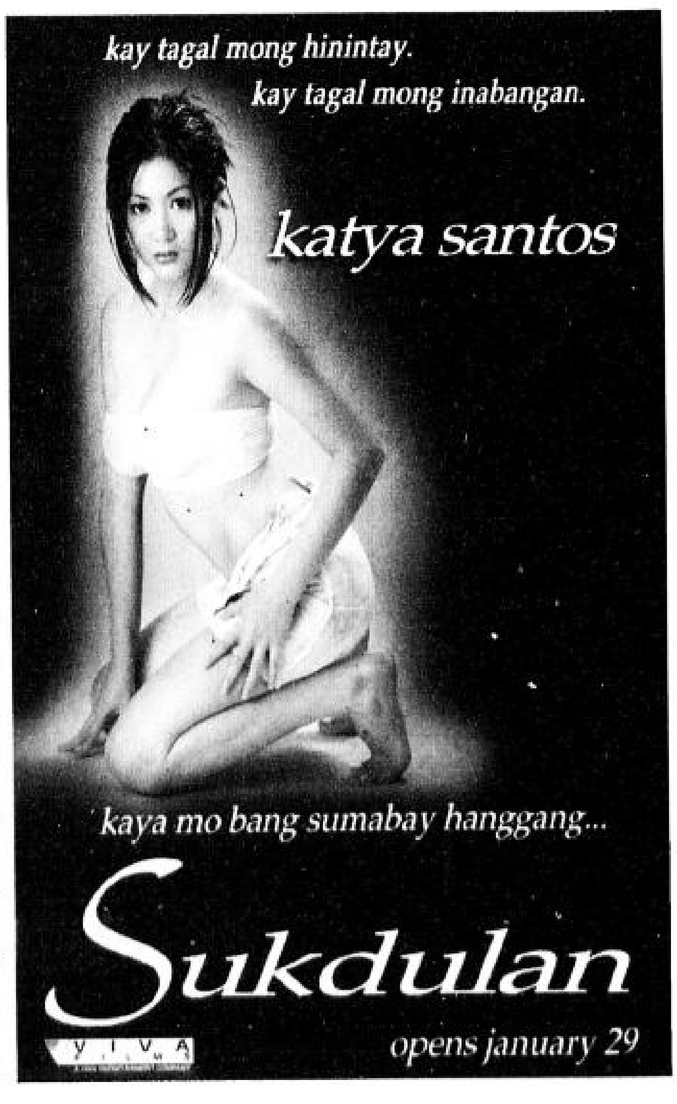

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

**CHANGING PRIORITIES.** Pops Fernandez embarks on an extensive concert series here and abroad.

# Pops to leave 'Morning Girls'

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

*Leah Salterio*

FIRST it was **Kris Aquino**. Now it's the turn of **Pops Fernandez** to leave ABS-CBN's daily morning talk show, "Morning Girls."

Since Pops will be busy this year because of her series of concerts here and abroad, she is now having second thoughts on renewing her contract with "Morning Girls," which she hosts with **Zsa Zsa Padilla** and **Carmina Villaroel** (who replaced Kris).

"'Morning Girls' is a fun environment for me," says Pops. "Aside from the fact that I get to work with my friends, I am given the chance to do something new.

"But since I will do a series of shows here and abroad, I am afraid I would have to free myself from one thing to accommodate the demands of my performances."

When she was preparing for her birthday concert last December at the Ultra, Pops had difficulty juggling her schedule for "Morning Girls" taping and rehearsals for her show.

"It was tough and I'm glad I managed to get through," Pops allows. "But this year, I am changing my priorities a bit. I know I'll be required to give most of my time preparing for my concert tours, so I will."

Pops realized daily morning TV will inevitably become too taxing for her. She is seen on the boob-tube six days a week. Aside from "Morning Girls" which airs Mondays to Fridays, she also hosts the Sunday noontime musical-variety program, "Asap."

In "Asap," Pops clearly shows viewers she is the undisputed concert queen since she can whip up an entertainment spectacle anytime. Whether she sways to dance hits or dishes out the latest chart-toppers, Pops is always a delight to watch.

Pops managed to be visible on TV even while conquering the live concert scene, radio and the movies, too.

Last year, she scored a box-office hit, the romantic-comedy "Videoke King," opposite action star **Robin Padilla** for Star Cinema. Pops reinvented herself in the movie and gave the audience a different peek into the lighter side of her character.

The film outfit of ABS-CBN is scouting for another potential blockbuster material for Pops this year. For her next project, Pops is expected to offer something new that her fans can look forward to.

In the recording scene, Pops was most proud about her new album under Viva Records, "The Way I Feel Inside," which was recently certified gold record. The album contains original compositions by the prolific tandem of **Edith Gallardo** and **Moy Ortiz**, the same duo behind Aiza Seguerra's monster hit, "Pagdating ng Panahon."

"Kaya Pala," the first single culled from Pops' album, easily became a favorite on the airlanes both in Manila and the provinces. Also making its way through the most requested list of radio stations is the second single, "Ano Ba ang Tama?"

Fresh from her Ultra concert last Dec. 14, Pops sets out to chart another eventful year this 2003.

Her first venture is the much-awaited stage reunion with concert king **Martin Nievera**. The former show biz couple will be together on Valentine weekend, when they hold a concert at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City, Feb. 15.

Pops and Martin will thrill Manila audiences with their two-night show at the Araneta Coliseum, Feb. 21 and 22.

Their concert series is record breaking in terms of ticket sales. The producers, Maxi-Media International, cannot be happier that all the shows already had sold-out status even before major advertisements came out in print.

In response to the clamor, a possible extension is now being planned.

In the last quarter of the year, Pops and Martin will also embark on a concert tour of the United States, which will cover 16 cities.

Aside from her shows with Martin, Pops also gave her nod to do solo performances in the US and Canada within the year. The request for Pops to perform abroad prompts her constant visit to her fans overseas. Last year, Pops did a series of shows in the US with **Ai-Ai de las Alas**, **Troy Montero** and **Robin Padilla.**

Although loveless at the moment, Pops is nonetheless busy and she cannot be thankful enough for all her commitments this year.

When Pops apparently sets her heart out on one thing, it will be impossible to stop her,

CORITHA

### Lapu-Lapu theme

A POSTCRIPT to the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF). Folk singer **Coritha** recorded her original composition, "Mabuhay ang Kalayaan," the theme of the historical epic movie, "Lapu-Lapu," starring action star turned Pampanga Governor **Lito Lapid**.

Coritha arranged the song with the film's musical director **Blitz Padua**. The song is a fitting tribute to the country's first freedom fighter and 'the Filipinos' continuing quest for freedom.

The movie, which is one of the official entries in the filmfest, is based on well-researched facts on the life of **Lapu-Lapu**, who holds the distinction of having killed Spanish colonizer **Magellan**.

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| 9:30 - 11:00 | Usapang Claire | Claire Dela Fuente / Ka Maxi |
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# SundayBIZ

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espinô

# No jolts, no surprises in bankers' annual fete

The country's top money men—Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho

BSP's Fe de la Cruz, Monetary Board member Fe Barin and Securities and Exchange Commission Commissioner Josie Poblador

PLACIDO Mapa, Marivic Rufino, Citibank's Catherine Weir and Cesar Buenaventura

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SPARSE and relaxed appeared to be the atmosphere during this year's annual Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas fete for bankers held last Friday.

The weather was humid with just an occasional breeze at the FortSan Antonio Abad in the grounds of the BSP. Most of the guests were in dark suits. A handful were in barong. BSP Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura wore a khaki suit with a blue shirt and red tie.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho came late but got to show off his Tagalog roots when he spoke in flawless Filipino to reporters.

Nobody seemed to have come with any expectations of a major announcement from the BSP and the Governor did not give any.

He gave an optimistic speech though and cited in particular new laws that will help the banking sector rid itself of its billions of pesos in non-performing assets via the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle Act. The Act provides incentives for investors to buy out the bad loans of the banks.

Buenaventura mentioned the anti-money laundering law and moves to work well with other government agencies to ensure a more efficient financial system.

Topics of conversations of the bankers included health issues among the older ones and the Octavio V. Espiritu punching scandal.

Two of the country's oldest bankers were present—Escolastica Bince, 86, a former deputy governor of the then Central Bank; and Basilio Estanislao, 88, a former deputy governor of CB and president of the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Former governors also dropped by—Gabriel C. Singson, Jaime C. Laya. Philamlife president and a former CB Governor Jose L. Cuisia was absent.

In a brief talk with Buenaventura he tells SundayBiz that "the banking sector has emerged stronger with the passage of the SPAV and other economic reform bills. I am counting on further improvement and also for the economy.

I hope that they would take the President's word, many seem to be cynical," he says.

NO JOLTS/ B2

BSP's Andre Navato, Cayetano Paderanga, and Cora Guidote

Chinatrust's president Joey Bermudez

FORMER BSP Governor Gabriel C. Singson

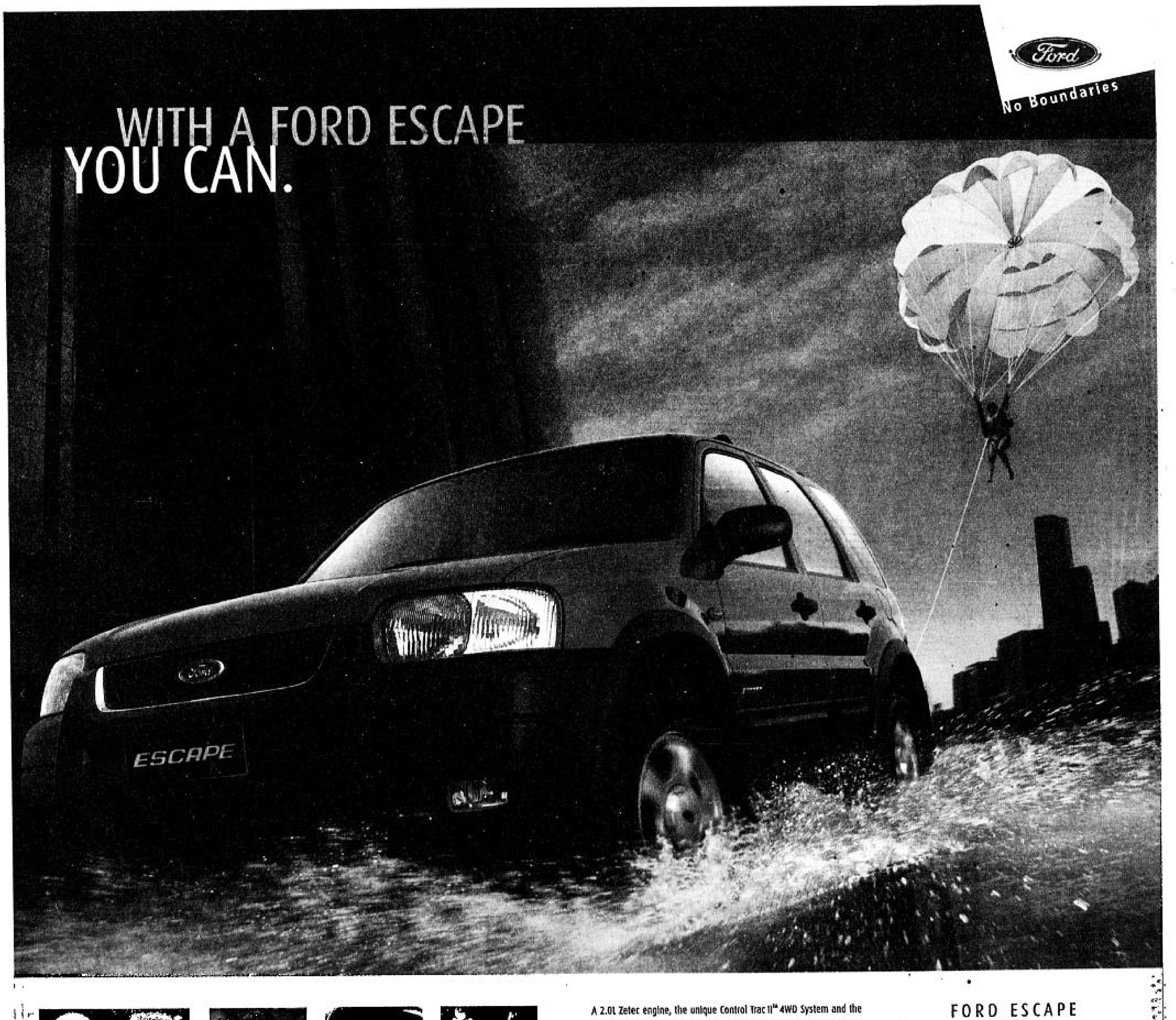
NEWLY appointed assistant to the governor Nesting Espenilla

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura says the banking sector has emerged stronger.

PHOTOS BY EGAY MONTANA

OLDEST banker in the crowd and former Landbank president Basilio Estanislao with iBank's Ramon Sy

BSP deputy governor Alberto Reyes and Deutsche Bank's Michael Hellbeck



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# Where to go for a quick shop or a quick eat?

**By Corrie Salientes-Narisma**

MANY love to shop in big malls or simply go "malling" any time of the day given the chance, which explains the mushrooming of giant malls that practically changed the landscape of major cities in the country, particularly Metro Manila.

However, there are also many who simply want to buy the things they need or eat decent meals without the usual hassles of going to big malls—the traffic, the search for parking space and the crowd.

Even regular mall goers do look for more convenient places to go whenever they need to get things fast.

It is for these people and these situations that Circle C—a 22,000-square-meter, three-story community mall along the bustling Congressional Avenue in Quezon City—was built.

## Quality goods plus more

The latest venture of the Coronel Group of Companies of the Cinderella fame, Circle C, was developed by another group subsidiary, Panorama Development Corp.

Circle C, according to Panorama vice president Edgar Coronel, is almost as complete as the giant malls in the city.

It has Robinsons Supermarket (its flagship), a department store (Cinderella), a home appliance store, a bookstore, several boutiques, Internet café, a coffee shop, restaurants and food stands, bakeshops, photo shops and studios, beauty parlors, shoe stores, dental and medical clinics, a bank, an optical shop and laundry. A home furniture and furnishings shop will be added in the near future.

For entertainment, Circle C has a game zone and regular weekly shows (on Sundays) featuring some of the country's most popular stars. Its movie theaters on the third floor of the complex will open soon.

It also features tiangge-type stalls on the second floor of the mall where one can find a variety of goods.

## Convenient shopping

The community commercial complex offers its customers a complete line of quality products and services available in giant malls and the convenience of going to nearby *sari-sari* stores.

Coronel takes pride in the fact that customer service in Circle C is highly personalized.

The Coronel group could not have chosen a better and more strategic place for Circle C than its present location now—in the center of Quezon City's major road arteries such as Mindanao, Visayas and Congressional Avenues and of some 10 villages in these areas.

"We saw the necessity for this type of community mall in the area, with the huge residential community here to cater to. Many of the people living here do not want to go far from their homes if they want to buy something or eat out. A school and the area's parish church are also nearby," Coronel says.

## Growing clientele

Since it opened for business in June last year, Coronel says the number of people going to Circle C have been increasing by 30 percent monthly. "Foot traffic now is about 200,000 to 220,000 and we want to increase this to 300,000 to 350,000 a month soon."

Coronel says the group started conceptualizing the project three years ago. "Initially, we just wanted a small and simple arcade. But because of the numerous inquiries from prospective locators and even customers, we decided to go for this type of commercial complex."

The group spent P300 million to build Circle C, which is Panorama's and the Coronels' first venture in a commercial center development. Now on its 14th year in business, Panorama used to focus its operations on the development of office buildings, factories and warehouses.

Circle C
Cinderella
Robinsons Supermarket

CIRCLE C caters to those who want to get things fast.

One of the nine children of Eduardo and Florencia Coronel, founders of Cinderella, Edgar Coronel is in charge of Panorama and Circle C.

## Tough challenges

Developing the commercial complex and running it were entirely different from what Coronel has been doing all these years. "So I am still adjusting and that's the hardest part of all."

Another major challenge is sustaining the interest of the people and Coronel intends to make this happen with the help of Circle C's tenants.

Although Circle C may be the first of its kind in this corner of Quezon City, Coronel says the community mall concept was not at all new. He says a number of these complexes have already been in existence for at least five years now particularly in provinces just outside Metro Manila such as Bulacan and Pampanga.

"The commercial centers of the past, long before the age of mega malls, were like this. It is like a cycle. We started with community malls, developed into huge shopping malls and now we are again building community malls to cater to a specific niche of the market," he says.

## Fair deal

The Coronel group of companies has another property that is also strategic for this type of commercial development but Coronel says the group postponed another similar project to focus on the operations of Circle C.

Circle C aims to make good business out of straight lease deals unlike some of the big malls that get a share from the tenants' sales on top of the lease payments.

"We have very simple goals for Circle C. We want our more than 40 tenants to make money and to satisfy our clientele," he says.

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# No jolts, no surprises ...

From page B1

BPI Family Bank president Aurelio Montinola III says, however, that business confidence has a lot to do with how the economy will fare this year.

Singson says the improvement of the economy will depend on the flow of foreign investments which does not appear to be coming.

Many of the bankers say too much politics is dragging the economy down.

FINANCE Undersecretary Cornelio C. Gison

HSBC's new CEO Warner Manning

RBAP'S Jose O. Lustre

CITIBANK'S Catherine Weir with MB member Teodoro Montecillo

RCBC's Val Araneta, Landbank's Gary Teves, and Metrobank's Placido Mapa

GOVERNMENT investor relations Cora Guidote, Bobbit Panlilio of JP Morgan and Manuel Salak of ING Bank.

OLDEST lady banker Escolastica Bince, a former CB deputy governor with Gabriel Singson.

PHOTOS BY EGAY MONTANA

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# Couple shows way to be best in Betis furniture

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

GUAGUA, Pampanga—Throughout their 31-year-old woodcraft and furniture business, Jose and Myrna Bituin has proudly used the Betis tree as an icon of excellent Filipino craftsmanship.

That is so because Betis Crafts Inc., the couple's company, evolved from the woodcarving industry that is synonymous to Betis, an old Pampanga village that was named after the tree.

Proud of that heritage, Myrna says they carried the Betis name to "promote the place" and "make it known that this is a land of carvers, sculptors and carpenters."

And they kept that aim to heart.

The Bituins, together with 300 plus workers, added to the distinction that the Baluyuts, Adrianos and other homegrown companies had earlier given Betis.

In the couple's case, they had earned numerous awards, including the prestigious Golden Shell in 1988. Their staying power in the market is a feat they value highly. For almost two decades, their products remain consistent top-sellers in high-end stores in the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

The Betis tree is also an illustrious symbol of the old town, which was merged with Guagua in 1904. The tree, although long extinct, is said to have left its only remnants in the lumber used to build the church and tower of St. James (Santiago de Galicia), one of the country's 26 churches declared as national cultural treasures.

This town was where Jose Bituin learned the craft from his father Julian, Myrna says.

## Beginnings

Jose used to take care of the family business of making billiard tables. His father, among the first batch of graduates of the Pampanga Trade School, now the Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trade, the oldest vocational school in Asia, was one of the best makers of billiard tables and carosas.

In his father's time, Jose recalls, Betis was a place where practically all men were carvers, furniture makers, farmers or fishermen.

All houses then had shops on the first floor where wood was fashioned into images of saints, frames for painting, chairs, cabinets and beds.

Like other boys his age, Jose lived with the smell of wood, the clutter and sound of work. There, he says, the children were apprentices under the watchful eyes of their grandfathers, fathers and uncles.

"You see the work, live with it and learned it that way," he says.

Hardly three years into their marriage, Jose, then 22, and Myrna, 20, decided to put up their own business in 1972.

They started with handicrafts right in the workroom of Jose's father.

Jose single-handedly handled the production side. Myrna took care of the marketing aspect. *"Ako yung daldal nang daldal. Siya yung gawa nang gawa,"* she recalls, laughing.

Out of monkey pods (acacia), they made wooden souvenir items for American soldiers on R&R (rest and recreation) in Clark in Pampanga and Subic in Zambales in between their assignments for the Vietnam War.

BETIS CRAFTS
INCORPORATED

THE BETIS three has become a symbol of excellent craftsmanship

Myrna remembers that the Air Force, Marine and Navy insignias were an instant hit. And so were the miniature ships.

As their shop at San Nicolas in Betis was doing good, the couple began looking for other markets. By 1978, they sold their handicrafts to exporters in Manila.

## Adversities

The couple's first challenge came when the government banned the cutting and use of monkey pods.

"We left the monkey pod business because we wanted to deal only with problems that we can solve," she adds.

By then, Betis craftsmen specialized in making skeletons of chairs and never at putting upholstery or other finishing touches, says Myrna.

Buyers in Manila got the frames and sold them at double the price because they had the technology, which the Baluyuts and few others in Betis did not.

The couple then confronted another challenge: The quality of wood. Placed in air-conditioned houses or offices in Clark and Subic, the wood cracked because it was not fully dried.

By 1979, they set out to do better. That year, they opened a shop in Friendship, just outside Clark. With just five workers, they designed and specialized in a few products—a business strategy that Myrna stuck to.

"We worked on a certain design that sold very well and that our early clients identified us with. We thought it was going to be expensive if we go into a lot of products," she explains.

Out of one design, they made three bedroom sets. One was in the showroom, one was ready for finishing while the other one was being assembled.

"We produced this one at a time so we could have better pricing," she says.

The initial capital for this venture, called then the JB Handicrafts, was a loan worth P10,000. The amount was obtained from the National Cottage Industry Development Authority.

Julian, before dying in 1977, gave the couple P30,000 as a start-up money. He also made the basic machinery that Jose used.

A chair like this is a favorite among buyers

HUSBAND-and-wife team of Jose and Myrna Bituin

"My father-in-law said that as long as you have the blade you could develop the basic tools. You don't have to always buy the things you need," Myrna recalls.

According to the couple, the first thing they did was attend seminars to learn more about their craft.

"We did not have much capital so we went to all sorts of seminars to learn." Jose got a scholarship in Japan. Myrna, ever the learner, asked to join by paying for her own expenses.

"Until today, we are still learning because everyday there is a new technology," Myrna says.

The big break for them came in 1984. The Design Center of the Philippines under the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion chose them as one of the six companies that foreign consultants would assist to go into exports.

Of the six, their company, as Myrna says, was the smallest. The American consultant, she adds, could not forget what he saw in the "factory" of the Bituins. He saw the carver working in the backyard with the pigs, ducks and chickens that Myrna raised.

They joined their first Philippine furniture show in the United States soon after.

"The buyers saw our potential, that here was a company that could do something for them. What we did and because we were small, we only accepted what we could do, *yun lang kakayahan namin*. We never accepted something we knew we could not produce. And then we did the best we could," she says of that crucial phase.

The same clients, she points out, are still with them today and they help them develop the technology. "We grew with them," she says of that partnership..

Jose and Myrna share their blessings with residents of Betis. Getting a big order in the 1990s, Myrna organized a group of eight small companies from Guagua to produce the quota.

To date, Betis Crafts makes bedroom, living and dining sets. Aside from chairs, the company also manufactures huge mirrors that are intricately carved.

"We do products that the human hands work on. If it's all machines, *kaya yan ng ibang bansa*," Jose, 57, explains.

Myrna, now 54, emphasizes that one of the most important factors in the success of Betis Crafts was its people.

For those who have stayed in the company for 15 years, the couple began a housing project, each lot measuring more than 100 square meters.

At least three compounds in Sta. Inez also have spaces for factories in case the workers decide to start the same business, Jose says.

Ten years ago, Myrna also started a cooperative store for the workers. This came as the workers advanced their pay before the week was over and they were immersed in debts. For that, she lent a P10,000 capital. The store sold rice and groceries at one percent interest, which was ploughed back for the dividends shared to 200 members before the June enrollment.

The coopèrative has grown. Worth P2 million today, it offers loans for housing and sends to college at least two scholars every year.

"The most important thing for me is seeing our workers have big television sets, washing machines and a decent life," Myrna says.

Betis Crafts has also become a training ground for students at the trade school where she is a director. Many join the company after graduation.

THIS heavily carved mirror is a best seller

## Disaster

Myrna said they and the workers steered the company back on its feet after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991. Although Betis was on the west bank of the Pasig-Potrero River and lahar from there swamped the factory in San Miguel, they all stayed put until the 1995 Cabalantian tragedy occurred.

On rainy days, workers, who were worried about the safety of their families, never reported for work.

Because lahar cut the eastern road networks, which allowed the company only two hours to transport their goods to Manila, delivery had to be through the western route that passed through Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Pangasinan, Tarlac and all the way to Manila.

This jacked up the transport cost by 300 percent. On several occasions, Myrna says she and the delivery team had to carry large cabinets across lahar-choked rivers to deliver the products on time.

High operational losses and delays in delivery prompted the company to transfer its main factory to Concepcion, Tarlac, in 1996.

Betis Crafts now has seven satellite factories supported by former employees-turned-sub-contractors. These days, productivity is always a top business concern. Despite the tough times, she notes that the company did not lay off even one worker.

"If our entrepreneurial capability was able to make this small factory successful then we are transferring that entrepreneurial spirit to our people," she says.

# Bank invests in RP history through works of art

WHEN Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia was asked why he was spending P46 million of the people's money to buy the 44 by 39-inch "Parisian Life" by artist Juan Luna, he had a simple answer: He was not just buying a masterpiece, but rather a piece of Philippine history.

It is with this same belief that Philippine corporations have acquired works of art by local artists. These paintings, sculptures, prints or old maps were seen not just as good investments but as a contribution to preserving our rich Filipino culture.

One of these corporations that amassed a treasure trove of art pieces over the years is the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

BPI's extensive art collection include the works of Filipino Masters such as Luna and Hidalgo and National Artists Amorsolo, Legaspi, Manansala, Ocampo, Edades and Luz.

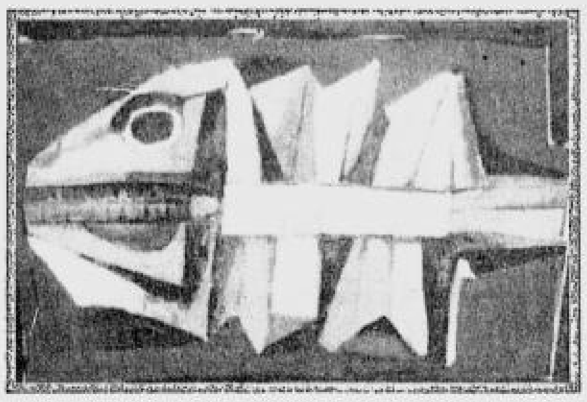
As a witness to the unfolding of Philippine history, the 151-year-old bank also has an extensive collection of 19th century prints and maps.

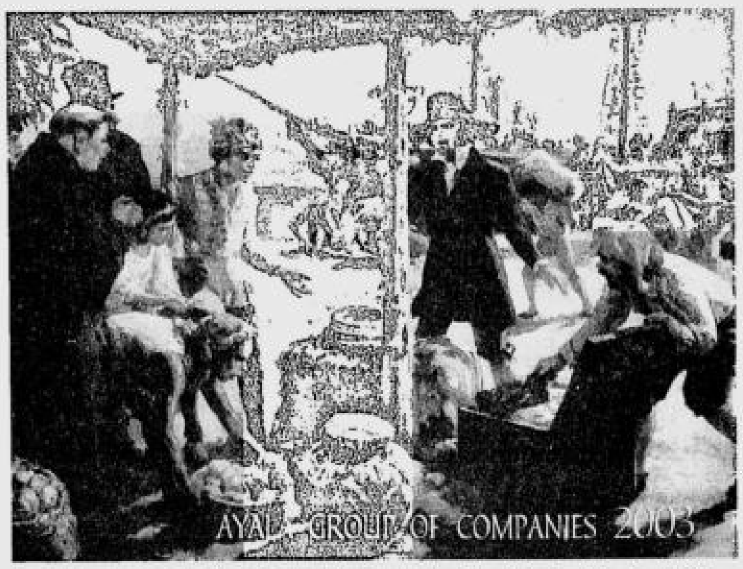
Its art collection got even bigger following the merger with the Far East Bank and Trust Co., which had a large collection of Juan Luna paintings and other works.

"BPI believes that these works of art were born out of unusual Filipino insight, creativity and imagination in expressing Filipino culture and traditions, history aspirations and way of life," says BPI vice president Veronica Tapia-Merk.

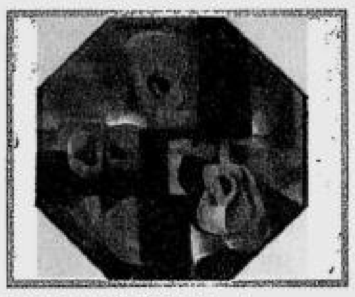
SundayBiz features here some of the paintings in its collection executed by the country's National Artists for Visual Arts. These paintings can be seen at the 19th floor of the BPI head office Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas.

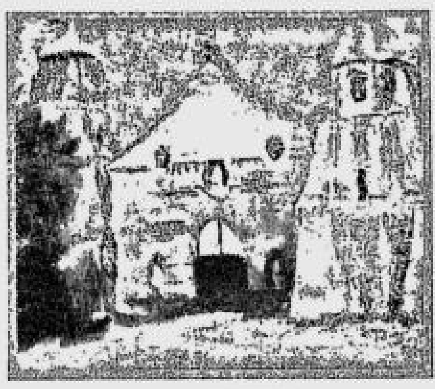
*Tina Arceo-Dumlao*

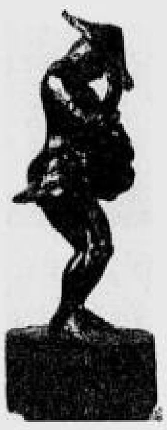

FISH (Green), 1979 Ang Kiukok, National Artist, 2001

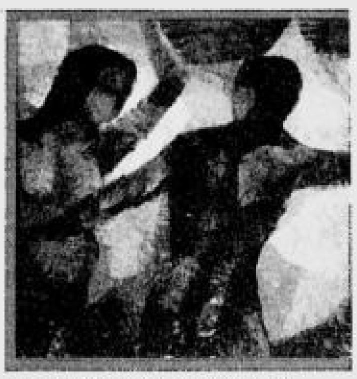


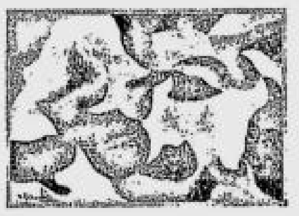
GALLEON Trade, undated Fernando Amorsolo, First National Artist, 1972


GUITARS Oil, 1971 Vicente Manansala, National Artist, 1981


Church, Victorio Edades Edades National Artist, 1976


BASA Na, Napoleon Veloso Abueva, National Artist, 1976


ADAM and Eve, Cesar Legaspi, National Artist, 1990


UNTITLED Abstract, Hernando Ruiz Ocampo, National Artist, 1991

# Exec lives up to ...

From page B12

terests included La Perla Tobacco Company, Manila Jockey Club and Tayabas Sawmill. Perhaps the sawmill was the better business, Herbosa quipped. There were only 13 sawmills in 1900, but the figure grew to about 30 in three decades.

One of Limjap's daughters, Esperanza, married President Sergio Osmena. Herbosa's grandmother, Felisa Boncan, is Esperanza Osmena's younger sister.

Call it fate or the shared destiny of the like minded, the Limjaps also had connections to the Rizal family. Mariano Limjap was not only a major financier of the revolution; in fact, one of his daughters, Leonarda, ended up marrying Aristeo, son of Jose Rizal's sister, Olimpia. According to T.M. Kalaw, Limjap, together with Telesforo Chuidian and 21 other members of the Philippine elite, were arrested and jailed by Spanish authorities in 1896, the year Rizal was shot. So while one of Herbosa's ancestors was in jail, the other one was being shot in Bagumbayan.

When the Philippine American War broke out, Limjap with Telesforo Chuidian and Pedro Paterno served in General Aguinaldo's three-man finance committee. Later on, Limjap was appointed Inspector General of the Railroad. His primary contribution was ordering the destruction of the railroads to delay American forces and allow Aguinaldo to escape north.

Obviously, in a game of name-dropping Herbosa will win hands down. But such connections can also usually mean one thing: the pressure of living up to not just one, but two family names. Herbosa, however, deals with everything with ease. He concedes there was pressure, but it wasn't the kind that suffocated him.

The only pressure Herbosa could think of was academic, especially among his Rizal cousins. He says, "Education was the true Rizalian value. Being the eldest in my family, I had to carry the torch so to speak. There was pressure there because firstly, I wasn't as gifted as my cousins. They were truly academic achievers."

Herbosa is modest. While he goes on and on about which be relative went to medicine, UP Law, Harvard, John Hopkins, Stanford, etc, he dismisses his own outstanding education—prep to college at the Ateneo de Manila, an MBA in Finance from the Wharton School. In fact, Herbosa, keeping true to the Rizalian tradition, now teaches "Strategic Finance for CEOs and Entrepreneurs" at the Ateneo Graduate School. It's a pioneer course he designed, and it is proof of the wealth of knowledge and experience he has in the field.

Whatever strain he may be feeling about his name, Herbosa deals with it by using the pressure as an inspiration in his daily life. "It wasn't difficult, anyway, since I grew up with a father who inculcated in his children the Rizalian values of academic excellence, integrity, patriotism, simple living and dedication to one's profession or craft," Herbosa explains. Herbosa's father was a dedicated banker and former President of UCPB. He adds," From my Limjap side, I got the knack for business. I learned the art of packaging and investing."

Herbosa's maternal side was one of the first families to build on Ayala Avenue in the early '60's.

On hindsight, Herbosa sees his parents' inherent qualities as his true inheritance. "It provided a very healthy balance in my life, both in skills set and perspective."

According to Herbosa, he always strove to be a well-rounded man as Rizal had been. True to Rizal and their Jesuit upbringing, Herbosa was not only an academic achiever; he was also an athlete—a UAAP silver medalist in swimming and a High School discus-thrower. Herbosa even won 1st prize in a drama competition in Ateneo's prestigious Dulaang Sibol, a play that he also co-directed and acted in. To his regret, it was the first and last play he would write. "That one came to me so naturally that I often wonder if there was a Rizal gene at work," Herbosa surmises.

And now after years of professional and financial success, Herbosa has shifted his priorities. Money isn't a noteworthy endeavor or measurement anymore; professional integrity and service are now more important.

"In the first place, I was never working for the money," he says. "I was working because I enjoyed what I was doing. I would not have excelled in my craft if I did not enjoy it."

That's why Herbosa isn't surprised to find himself working for P&A, a firm that prides itself for its objectivity, integrity and quality service. With P&A, Herbosa has found work that truly matches his talent, the professionalism that characterizes his every job, and his family's tradition of excellence and dedication to one's craft.

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**VSO**

Bahaginan is the Southern Volunteering Programme of VSO in the Philippines. It recruits qualified and experienced professional Filipino volunteers, to work with communities and organizations across developing countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern / Central Europe, and Caribbean / Pacific region. It also provides technical support to domestic volunteering in the country.

**Bahaginan welcomes applications for a high quality, committed professionals as:**

## RECRUITMENT and RESETTLEMENT OFFICER

**Code: RRO**

**Based in Manila, the RRO will co-ordinate SVP Philippines' Recruitment and Returned Volunteers Resettlement Programme**

*Key Responsibilities*

1. Recruitment Programme:
   - Respond to application enquiries by providing documents and required information
   - Regularly monitor and update the application file including the information on database
   - Co-ordinate with PNVSCA and placement advisers in screening applications, screening and preliminary interviews
   - Monitor and analyse recruitment and selection trends
   - Assist in promoting the Bahaginan programme and volunteerism
   - Arrange for submission and facilitation of travel documents of volunteers
2. Resettlement Programme:
   - Co-ordinate and provide services required by overseas volunteers while in-country or on temporary leave at home (e.g. payment of insurance, hardship payments)
   - Act as the first point of contact for resettlement issues
   - Co-ordinate and provide services to returned volunteers in preparation for their return to the Philippines
   - Co-ordinate the Returned Volunteers events and support
   - Monitor and analyse volunteer completion rates (early return and extension rates) to ensure key findings are reflected in other areas of VSO's programme work (e.g. assessment and training)

*Qualifications required*

- At least 3 years related work experience, preferably in volunteer work
- Excellent oral and written communication skills. Good command of English language is essential
- Computer literate (word processing, spreadsheets, database, email)
- Strong initiative, resourcefulness, and inter-personal skills in cross-cultural context
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Willing to make decisions and able to work with minimal supervision
- Willing to occasionally work beyond office hours

*This post is initially offered on a one-year contract, with possible renewal.*

Closing date 30 January 2003
Starting date 15 March 2003

## FINANCE and ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Code: FAO**

**Based in Manila, the Finance Admin Officer is responsible for the efficient/effective supervision of all Finance and Administration work within the VSO Bahaginan.**

*Key responsibilities include:*

1. As Finance Officer
   - Overview of the finance needs of the office, not just technical elements of the accounts, but also look at the other basic but critical systems such as filing and information system
   - Ensure that Bahaginan makes best use of its resources, without jeopardising effectiveness of the volunteer programme
   - Collaborate with Programme staff on the creation of annual reports and project budgets and input these into the computer accounts packages
   - Ensure the accurate and timely input of all income and expenditure movements into VSO's accounts system and the production and reconciliation of the monthly budget reports to be submitted to VSO UK
   - Monitor the budget and current expenditure, and recommend any remedial action to the SVP Coordinator
   - Ensure that VSO Accounting procedures/systems are effective and are being adhered to
2. As Administrative Officer
   - Conduct the routine office management, including management of Bahaginan assets
   - Ensure adequate Office cover in the absence of SVP Coordinator
   - Develop mechanisms to ensure that the administrative function of the office is integrated with both the programme development and volunteer support functions
   - Facilitate travel arrangements of volunteers and staff
   - Ensure continuous and efficient communications – mail, e-mail, memorandum, etc.
   - Coordinate special events happening in the office

*Qualifications required*

- At least 3 years related work experience, preferably with NGOs / volunteers
- Strong finance management and accounting skills
- Familiarity with international NGOs accounting systems
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Computer literate (word processing, spreadsheets, database, email)
- Strong initiative, resourcefulness and inter-personal skills in cross-cultural context
- Willing to make decisions and able to work with minimal supervision
- Willing to occasionally work beyond office hours

*This post is initially offered on a one-year contract, with possible renewal.*

Closing date 22 January 2003
Starting date 1 March 2003

***Please submit your letter of intent indicating the position you are applying and your comprehensive resume or CV to SVP Philippines Coordinator at philippines.registry@vsoint.org. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.***

---

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- Financing & funding a park development
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Ms. Heide Gabito or Ms. Julie Gutierrez
Phone: (63 2) 887 4921
Email : heide.gabito@ascendas.com / julie.gutierrez@ascendas.com

**ASCENDAS (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION**
9/F Chatham House Building, 116 Valero corner Herrera Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Phone: (632) 887-4921 Fax: (632) 887-7958 Website: www.ascendas.com

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A **multi-billion** manufacturer of *health, beauty,* and *personal care* products invites prospective candidates for

## DISTRIBUTOR BUSINESS PARTNERS

**OBJECTIVE:**

To professionally handle key accounts servicing, secondary/tertiary accounts distribution, and implement the company's business direction in the assigned territorial coverage.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Has proven track record and business clout in the territory / industry that can directly support trade marketing efforts of the Company. Must indicate his desired area of coverage.
- Solid years of experience, preferably with multi-national companies, dealing with fast moving consumer products distribution.
- Sound organizational leadership and management, core values, and have continuously exhibited strong initiatives with previous / other principals.
- Sufficient financial standing and willing to submit to financial competency and logistics/resource requirement capability verification by the company's business development group.

A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE AND PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST FINANCIALLY VIABLE DISTRIBUTOR'S SCHEMES IN THE INDUSTRY, AWAITS THE SUCCESSFULLY CHOSEN BUSINESS PARTNER.

Applicants are required to express interest through a **Letter of Intent** together with a detailed **Company Profile** and proof of qualifications to the address below **not later than January 30, 2003.**

**DISTRIBUTOR BUSINESS PARTNER**
**P.O. BOX 1126**
**Quezon City Central Post Office**

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UNDP

**Strengthening the Foundations of Lasting Peace and Development in Southern Mindanao**

**URGENT RECRUITMENT**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in search of a qualified individual to fill-up the position of **a Culture of Peace and Advocacy Specialist (COPA)** to be based in Cotabato City.
Under the direct supervision of and reporting to the Programme Manager (PM) with technical supervision from the UNDP focal point and coordinating closely with the Programme Coordinator (PC), ACTs and other Components, the COPA shall provide technical support to the programme as follows:

- Designs the over-all programme framework for Peace and Confidence Building activities based on the programme's set objectives and outputs for advocacy and promotion of culture of peace
- Recommends policy options for advocacy and promotion of a culture of peace
- Develops guidelines for the conduct of the Annual Mindanao Peace Awards
- Designs and develops capacity building modules on peace education and advocacy for implementation at the PDC, provincial and regional levels
- Perform linkaging and networking activities with other peace advocacy groups, government and other organizations
- Initiates and conducts sectoral and multi-sectoral peace and confidence building activities that cuts across programme
- Prepares progress reports

**Qualifications**

- Advance studies on Development Communications and Management/ Rural Social Development
- Experiences on policy formulation, analysis and advocacy, handling and managing campaigns, peace education and public information
- Skilled in linkaging and network building especially with government and civil society groups
- Proficient in oral communications and skilled in technical writing
- Computer literate
- Familiar with the culture, history and current situation in Southern Philippines
- Able to converse and write in any the local dialects (especially Visayan) in Southern Philippines

Preferably all applicants should come from Mindanao. Please submit your application letter and comprehensive resume on or before **24 January 2003** to Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), Tel. Nos. (632) 8920611 to 25, ext. 237, Fax nos. (632) 8164061/8939598; Email Address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org

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Autocity Inc. is in need of the ff.:

**Executive Secretary (Female)**
**College Graduate & Single**
**Car Sales Executive (Male or Female)**

College level; Must have typing skills; Good communication skills; Must have initiative and ability in selling; with or without experience; With pleasing personality

Come in business attire with resumé & picture at:

**758 Del Monte Avenue, SFDM, Quezon City**
**Between Araneta Avenue & Roosevelt Avenue, Quezon City**

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**WANTED IMMEDIATELY**

## ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Preferrably with sales experience
- We offer basic salary + travel allowance + commission

PM Petersen Merchandising

608 - 612 Camba St., Binondo, Mla.
Email: pat888@I-manila.com.ph
Mobile No.: 0917-5285365

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A furniture company is in need of:

**Sales and Marketing Associates:**

- Male or Female, 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of Fine Arts major in Interior Design or any Business Management or Marketing course from a reputable College or University
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Basic computer skills is a plus

Pls. send or fax comprehensive resumés with 2x2 picture on or before **Jan. 24, 2003**
c/o **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.**
**#79 Doña Hemady Street, New Manila, QC**
**Tel. Nos. 7226901 to 08**
**Fax No. 7227380**

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## URGENT HIRING

- male/female, not more than 25 years old
- college graduate, with knowledge of MS Word & can type 45 words/minute
- with or without work experience, willing to be trained
- with skill in English writing
- able to work long hours

**Please call 873-4387 and look for Martha**

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**DIRECT HIRING**
OFFICE STAFF/CLERK
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M/F, col grad/level,
18-45 yrs w/ or w/o exp.:
can start immediately
Contact MS. MALEN (Sec)
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*Apply in person at:*
Rm 4, 2nd Flr.
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Roosevelt Ave. cor.
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*An Expanding School in Antipolo City is in need of:*

**PRE-SCHOOL / GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS / Guidance Councelor / Admin Staff / Nutritionist**

- Graduate BSEEd, Early Childhood Educ, Child Psycho, BSE Major English, Math, Science, MA Educ, BSN
- Female, 21-30 years old (Single)
- Proficient in Spoken / Written English

Interested applicants may call:
**240-0917, 249-0919, 645-1298, 645-1304**

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**URGENTLY NEEDED!!!**
**ENERGETIC AND HARD WORKING SALES ENGINEERS**

ECE, Computer Science or Engineering Graduate
(Fresh Graduates are welcome)

**Basic Salary and Commissions will be given to successful applicants plus a chance to be trained in the US.**

Bring Curriculum Vitaé with 2x2 photo, transcript of records on January 13 & 14, 2003,
from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
at Suite 2A-2A1 R.M. Commercial Center Building
#80 R. Magsaysay, Boulevard Extension, Quezon City

## The WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT ~ PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT

a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP~PC aims to improve the health and status of women, through the use community health development techniques which enable women at the barangay level to identify and articulate their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health.

An important component of these plans is the Womens Health Actions (WHAs) which include some small infrastructure projects such as renovation or construction of barangay health stations and local water supply projects. To ensure the proper and timely completion of these projects, as well as to build the capability of the women/ Womens Organization to manage them:

**The Project is currently seeking a highly qualified and experienced**

### PROJECT MANAGERS ~ SMALL INFRASTRUCTURE

**for Project areas in Region V ~ Legazpi; CAR ~ Baguio;**
**Region X ~ Cagayan De Oro**

**Key Tasks**

- ☐ Advise and support [Women's] Community Organisations responsible for Project planning and implementation
- ☐ Supervise and progress implementation of [small] infrastructure projects, to ensure both compliance with prevailing building codes/regulations and timely completion, within budget
- ☐ Coordinate purchasing/procurement and control stores and materials and identify and solve implementation problems promptly
- ☐ Liaise with relevant LGU and Department of Health personnel, including engineers, and with third party contractors, as required

**Qualifications and Experience**

- ☐ Must be registered/licensed [Civil] Engineer or Architect
- ☐ Must have extensive experience in the management of infrastructure Projects and troubleshooting delays in construction activities to expedite their completion
- ☐ Effective and positive communication with clients
- ☐ Preparation of project progress and completion reports

**A DETAILED POSITION DESCRIPTION IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST & ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.**

Engagement will be on a contractual basis ~ interested and appropriately qualified individuals should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resume on or before **17 January 2003**, to:

**THE PERSONNEL OFFICER**
Women's Health Project - Partnerships Component
5B Osmeña Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

WHSMP-PC

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**BOARD OF INVESTMENTS (BOI)**
is in need of

## DIRECTOR III
for
## Technology Management Department

**The successful candidate will be tasked to:**

- Plan and implement the agency's vital information systems
- Develop and manage I.T. projects
- Maintain and administer the agency's information system and I.T. equipment
- Render I.T. technical support
- Analyze BOI investment statistic and prepare statistical reports
- Coordinate with other government agencies on I.T. projects integration and statistical reports

**Core Requisites:**

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Studies or in other related courses.
- Must be knowledgeable in the presentation and interpretation of numerical facts that reflect significance on the organization's systems and procedures
- Must be knowledgeable in management information system requiring application of the computer and information systems related to principles and techniques
- Must have at least three (3) years supervisory experience in the field of I.T.
- Preferably a Career Service Executive (CES) Eligible

Applicants may submit comprehensive resume **on or before 17 January 2003 to:**

**The Director**
**Human Resource Development Service**

6/F, Trade and Industry Bldg.
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
hrds@dti.gov.ph

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**We are the fast growing company who is urgently in need of highly competent, aggressive and confident young individuals to fill-in the following positions:**

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Male; not more than 28 years old; Licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine; work experience in Handling product seminars is a must; at least 1 year continues driving experience and with valid driver's license; w/ excellent communication skills; confident speaker.

### DISTRICT SALES MANAGER

Male; not more than 30 years old; Animal Science or Veterinary Medicine Graduate; with experience in handling and managing people; with at least one (1) year continues driving experience; self-motivated, honest, hardworking and personable; for provincial assignment.

### TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Male; 22 to 28 years; Animal Science or Veterinary Medicine Graduate; with at least 1 year continues driving experience and valid driver's license; with good communication skills; sales and marketing experience is an advantage; self-motivated, honest, hardworking and personable; willing to be deployed for provincial assignments.

### FARM VETERINARY

Male or female, not more than 28 years old; Doctor of Veterinary Medicine; with or without experience; efficient; preferably single and willing to stay in farm.

### OFFICE CLERK

Female, single, 23 to 27 years old; preferably Accounting Graduate; hardworking, honest and reliable.

**If you possess the qualifications stated above, then you are the one we are looking for. Answering this ad could change the course of your life.**

Previous applicants need not apply. Interested applicants may personally come for interview or send their comprehensive resumé with latest 2x2 picture and transcript of records to:

**HI-GRADE FEEDS CORPORATION**
105 Bo., Bagbaguin, Sta. Maria, Bulacan
Tel. (044) 641-07-92 to 94 or
(02) 362-01-35 / 330-34-70

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## The WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT ~ PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT

a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP~PC works in close collaboration with its partners, the DOH Centers for Health Development, LGUs and NGOs, to improve the health and status of women, through the use community health development techniques which enable women at the barangay level to identify and articulate their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health.

The Project is managed by the central Project Management Office in Manila, and implemented in five regions through regional project offices (RPMUs) in Baguio, (CAR), Legazpi (Region 5) Tacloban (Region 8), Cagayan de Oro and Butuan (Region 13, CARAGA)

**The Project is currently seeking a highly qualified and experienced**

### Regional Co-Unit Manager

**for its RPMU in Baguio**

- ☐ The Regional Co- Unit Manager is responsible for jointly managing the day to day operations of the RPMU and the Project's implementation in the Region. This includes the development of plans for implementing the Project in the region, leading and managing the RPMU staff, which includes a multidisciplinary Technical Team responsible for implementing and monitoring Project activities and an Administrative Team which provides the Project's administrative support. The RPMU works in close co-operation with its Project partners in the implementation of Project activities in the Region, and facilitating and strengthening these working relationships is key role for the Co-Unit Managers.

**The person we are seeking**

- ☐ must have extensive demonstrated management experience
- ☐ possess managerial competencies in leading, planning, directing and organizing community-based services/health focused development Projects
- ☐ must be committed and highly motivated,
- ☐ have relevant qualifications,
- ☐ have worked closely with Government and Non-Government agencies.

**ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.**

Interested and Qualified Applicants should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resume, by email or fax on or before close of business on Friday, **17 January 2003**, to:

**THE PERSONNEL OFFICER**
Women's Health Project - Partnerships Component
5B Osmeña Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

WHSMP-PC

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**Laus Group**
*A Passion for Cars & Customer Care*
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## AVP for HUMAN RESOURCE

Candidate must have the following qualifications:

- Degree in Psychology or Behavioral Science or any relevant discipline, with MBA an advantage.
- Between 30 to 40 years old
- With extensive managerial experience in all facets of Human Resource Management
- Preferably has background on legalities & labor relations
- Must possess proven leadership abilities and excellent interpersonal skills
- Must be of impeccable integrity & good moral character
- Exhibits excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- Must be computer literate
- Preferably a resident of Pampanga, Bulacan or nearby places

Qualified applicants may send their curriculum vitaé, photocopy of transcript of records, recent 2X2 photo, together with their application letter to:

**The Senior Executive Vice-President**
Laus Group of Companies
2/F Carworld Building
San Fernando-Olongapo Hi-way
City of San Fernando (P)
Tel. No. (045) 961-15-09, Fax (045) 961-56-18
Mobile phone no. 0919-604-5209
e-mail address: fddejesus@lausgroup.com

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**YOSHITA CORPORATION**
**FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT**

**INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER**
M/F, 22-28 yrs. old, graduate of BSIE, with or without experience, trainable, can work under pressure, w/ strong leadership.

**ACCOUNTING CLERK**
F, 21-28 yrs. old, Acctg. grad., can work under pressure, organized, trainable, computer literate, w/ or w/out experience.

**HR ASSISTANT**
F, 21-25 yrs. old, graduate of Psychology/ Behavioral Sciences, trainable, well-motivated person, and w/ high frustration tolerance level.

**PURCHASER**
F, 21-28 yrs. old, graduate of 4-year course, preferably with experience, resourceful, reliable in sourcing and coordinating w/ suppliers, honest, hardworking and patient.

**WAREHOUSE IN-CHARGE / DOCUMENT CONTROLLER**
M, 21-28 yrs. old, with or without experience, college level or college graduate, trainable, computer literate.

Please apply in person, Monday-Friday, 8-4 P.M. with your updated resumé and transcript of records to the:

**HUMAN RESOURCE SECTION**
143 Shaw Blvd. corner Lawson St.
Mandaluyong City

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Republic of the Philippines
**NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION**
Quezon City

ISO 9002

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY**

## GENERAL MANAGER

**FOR**

**Guimaras Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
**(GUIMELCO)**
**Jordan, Guimaras**

**Qualifications**

Applicants may be male or female, must be at least 30 but not more than 55 years old, college graduate (in Business Management, Accounting/Finance, Engineering or Behavioral Sciences) preferably with Master's degree in Business Management Administration or Industrial Management, and must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience.

**STARTING SALARY P15,000.00**

Application forms and additional information may be obtained at the Cooperative Operations Department, 3rd Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Government Center, Diliman, Quezon City, or at the Regional Electrification Office VI, Iloilo City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on **03 February 2003.**

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO G. SILVA**
*Administrator*

(PDI - Jan. 12 & 13, 2003)

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**WANTED**

**TELEVISION HOST FOR A TV SHOPPING PROGRAM ON UHF**

- Preferably with an on-cam experience

**SALES MANAGER FOR A UHF TELEVISION STATION**

- Minimum of 2-3 years experience as Account Manager in an advertising agency.

Please send application letter with detailed resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 photo (come in for audition for TELEVISION HOST) to:

**3/F Save-A-Lot Mall,**
**2284 P. Tamo Extension, Makati City**

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*JOB OPENINGS FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT*

MYROVERSEAS MANAGEMENT CORP.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

**CIVIL ENGINEERS** must be licensed with at least 6 years related experience in telecommunications related civil construction works specifically on communication tower foundations, building GSM/Cell Phone Sites. Must be familiar with the design aspects of telecommunications tower foundation design and construction.

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS** must be licensed with at least 6 years related experience in high voltage and low voltage distribution. Familiar with automatic transfer switches (ATS), load transfer and distribution schemes used in automatic back-up power system, and load design, grounding and lightning protection schemes used in telecom sites.

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERS** must be licensed with at least 6 years experience in HVAC systems. Well experienced in standby Diesel Generators with up to 1megawatt capacity. Must have good knowledge in Diesel Power Generator operation and maintenance.

**CIVIL CONSTRUCTION FOREMANS** must have 10 years work experience in field works and at least 5 years as general foreman leading a team of field construction workers.

**MASONS**
**CARPENTERS**

Travel Agency in KSA:
**TICKET COUNTER AGENTS**
**ACCOUNTING CLERKS**
Should be familiar with the GALILEO SYSTEM with IATA certification on advance passenger fare and ticketing.

United States of America:

**NURSES**

*Should be a CGFNS and/or NCLEX Passer*
*TOEFL/TWE/TSE*

All candidates must personally apply ASAP and submit comprehensive resume, diploma & transcript of records, board rating, training & employment certificates, passport and 4 copies of 2x2 picture to:

**140 Paraluman St., Isidora Hills,**
**Don Antonio Hts., Quezon City**
**Tel. Nos. (02) 9314016 • 9314430 • 9318667**

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**Assistant Vice President (AVP)**
**For Marketing**

Requirements:

- College Graduate
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- Articulate, excellent command of English, able to conduct sales presentations, product seminars

Salary commensurate with experience and abilities. Excellent career opportunity. Send resumé with photograph immediately to:

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**PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

## NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED MEYCAUAYAN RURAL BANK (BULACAN), INC.

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed **Meycauayan Rural Bank (Bulacan), Inc. (MRBI)** on January 14, 2003.

Depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated below, to file their claims for insured deposits. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

PDIC has also designated Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) as its paying agent for the two (2) banking units of Meycauayan Rural Bank, Inc. Numbers of approved claims filed with MRBI – Bocaue and Karuhatan Branches that have been turned over by PDIC representatives to the LBP Servicing Branch shall be posted at the payoff site. Depositors are therefore requested to refer to these posters before proceeding to the LBP servicing branch for payment of claims. Duly processed claims in MRBI – Meycauayan (Head Office), Malhacan, Calvario, Bancal and Malanday Branches shall be paid by PDIC Disbursing Officers.

| *Servicing Dates* | *Payoff Site* | *MRBI Office/Branch* | *Servicing Branch* |
|---|---|---|---|
| January 14 to February 6, 2003 | Mac Arthur Highway, Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan | *Meycauayan, Head Office* | - |
| | Calvario, Meycauayan Bulacan | *Calvario* | - |
| January 14 to January 30, 2003 | Malhacan, Meycauayan Bulacan | *Malhacan* | - |
| | Karuhatan, Valenzuela City Metro Manila | *Karuhatan* | LBP - Valenzuela |
| January 14 to January 23, 2003 | Wakas, Bocaue Bulacan | *Bocaue* | LBP - Balagtas |
| | Malanday, Valenzuela City Metro Manila | *Malanday* | - |
| January 14 to January 21, 2003 | Bancal, Meycauayan Bulacan | *Bancal* | - |

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit; and/or Latest Bank Statement and Unused Checkbooks; and
b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) bearing the depositor's specimen signature.

Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed **Meycauayan Rural Bank (Bulacan), Inc.** is on **May 22, 2004.** After **May 22, 2004**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

**PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

(PDI - Jan. 12 & 13, 2003)

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## WORK ON CRUISE SHIP

Help you to get work on Cruise Ship vacancies available now, travel free visit, Australia, Europe, Canada, etc. Salary $US 2,000 to $US 6,000 a month. Free meals and accommodations to every occupation on Cruise Ship. Just send your name, address plus 4x stamps to:

C. Runas Trade Books, P.O. Box 52370 Balibago Post-Office, Balibago, Angeles City 2009, Philippines and we will send you free brochures.

*no placement fees collected, not agency*
*Beware of Illegal Recruiters.*

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**POEA 24-HR HOTLINES** 722-1144 722-1155

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# GIA

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---

A progressive multinational company engaged in food manufacturing and distribution in the Philippines is looking for a

## Business Partner

who can provide an approximately 18,000 square meter warehouse within Metro Manila. Existing warehouse or proposal to construct a new one are both acceptable. The facility should be able to handle large volume of traffic and must have sufficient loading and unloading structures with enough parking space. The location must be easily accessible.

***If interested, you can send thru fax your letter of intent and a two (2) to three (3) page company profile at fax no. 820-6836 on or before January 20, 2003.***

---

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

## GENERAL SERVICES SPECIALIST

THE GENERAL SERVICES SPECIALIST WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE. THE GSO IS COMPRISED OF THE WAREHOUSE, SUPPLY MANAGEMENT & HOUSING MAINTENANCE ENTITIES. INCUMBENT WILL SUPERVISE 6 POSITIONS AND WILL ALSO BE THE TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 14-PERSON MAINTENANCE AND WAREHOUSE CONTRACT. HE/SHE WILL BE RERSPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS FOR IMPLEMENTING POLICIES IN THE USE OF LEASED HOUSING FACILITIES AND EXPENDABLE PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT.

QUALIFICATIONS: MUST HAVE COMPLETED A BS OR AB DEGREE. DEGREES IN BUSINESS OR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, ENGINEERING, ACCOUNTING & FINANCE OR RELATED FIELDS ARE PREFERABLE. ADDITIONAL TRAINING, CERTIFICATES OR COURSES IN MANAGEMENT, ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS IS A MUST. MUST HAVE SEVERAL YEARS OF GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE EXPERIENCE WITH SOME BACKGROUND IN MANAGEMENT AND BUDGETING. MUST HAVE PROVEN MANAGEMENT ABILITY AND WELL-DEVELOPED PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS. MUST BE ABLE TO INTERACT EFFECTIVELY WITH MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PERSONNEL. MUST BE ABLE TO MANAGE AND DIRECT DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER BASED TRACKING SYSTEMS. ABILITY TO REPRESENT COMPLEX MANAGEMENT AND TROUBLE SHOOT. EXPERIENCE WITH PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES COMMON TO INTERNATIONAL DONOR AGENCIES HIGHLY DESIRABLE. FLUENT IN WRITTEN AND SPOKEN ENGLISH.

COMPENSATION: COMPETITIVE SALARY (INCLUDING MID-YEAR AND YEAR-END BONUSES), HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE, AND A RETIREMENT PLAN IS OFFERED.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 24, 2003.

SEND LETTER OF APPLICATION WITH COMPREHENSIVE RESUME TO:

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
P.O. BOX EA 423
1000 ERMITA, MANILA

---

## BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT

*"WE SERVE"*

## INVITATION TO BID

The Baguio Water District is inviting all interested and qualified bidders for the supply of 2,000 pieces of **1/2" Ø Water Meters.** (Please refer to standard specification at the Purchasing Office, Baguio Water District)

**This is a two (2) envelope system:**

**ENVELOPE 'A'** to contain the following:
- A refundable bid bond in the form of cash, manager's, or cashier's check equivalent to 2.5% or GSIS surety bond callable on demand equivalent to 30% of the total bid offer. Validity of the bond is 120 calendar days.
- Brochures, specification of the items offered.
- Validity, delivery period and warranty of items offered

**ENVELOPE 'B'** to contain bid cost

Interested bidders or suppliers may secure bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00.

Issuance of Bid Forms - Starting **JANUARY 21, 2003**
Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids - **FEBRUARY 5, 2003**

BWD PBAC (IN-HOUSE)

(PDI - Jan 12, 2003)

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## Join the winning team, be a TOTAL Station Retailer

**For the following sites:**
**• MERVILLE, Pasay City • CANLUBANG, Laguna**
**• ROSARIO, La Union • PULILAN, Bulacan**
**• SHAW Blvd., Mandaluyong City**

Interested applicants can get in touch with the following contact persons :

| | |
|---|---|
| • MERVILLE, Pasay City and Shaw Blvd. | Mike Serrano (0918-904-7643 / 849-0711) |
| • CANLUBANG, Laguna | Frazer Aleta (0918-909-2116 / 849-0708) |
| • ROSARIO, La Union | Jing Arkoncel (0918-914-3721 / 849-0724) |
| • PULILAN, Bulacan | Tess Salazar (0918-904-7839 / 849-0725) |

or, you may also call Ms. Jenni Supan at 0917-833-8103 or 849-0714.

**IT'S OUR NATURE TO CARE.** TOTAL

---

**PETRON**
Needs
SERVICE STATION DEALERS
for

| Locations | Required Capital | Deadline for Submission of Application |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Sta. Ana, Manila | P2.0M | 01/15/03 |
| 2. Sucat, Paranaque | P5.0M | 01/24/03 |
| 3. Binan, Laguna | P4.0M | 01/31/03 |
| 4. Lipa City, Batangas | P4.0M | 01/31/03 |
| 5. Sto. Tomas, Pampanga | P4.0M | 01/31/03 |
| 6. Angeles City, Pampanga | P4.0M | 01/31/03 |
| 7. McArthur Hway, Bocaue, Bulacan | P4.0M | 01/31/03 |

Note: Cash Capital needed for actual station operation;
No up-front money is given to Petron.

Only applicants who can meet the following "MUST" requirements need apply:
a. Must be able to put up required capitalization;
b. Must be able to operate and run the station on full time basis;
c. Must not be an existing dealer of Petron or of any other oil company.

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please secure your application forms from Luzon Retail, Petron Corporation Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila c/o Ms. Sharon Sayson at tel. 563-8521 Loc 281/282. Submit application forms not later than the deadline specified for each location.

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## WANTED AGENCY TO MANAGE HEALTH PROJECT

The Department of Health through the Bureau of Food and Drugs is developing a proposal on the implementation of the Philippine Food Fortification Program for submission to the **Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)**. As required, the proposal should identify an Executing Agency. The DOH through BFAD is accepting proposal bids from any organization that meet the following qualifications:

1. Public or private organization, international or local. International organizations must be locally registered.
2. Experienced in developing, implementing and monitoring health projects and with a track record of project accomplishments.
3. Proven ability to network with international and local partners in the implementation of health projects.
4. Able to implement a transparent financial system.
5. Proven ability to cover overhead costs as a percentage of funds managed.

The GAIN Executing Agency will manage the GAIN project funds and provide administrative and financial management support to the National Food Fortification Alliance (NFFA) established by the DOH. It will also act as the Secretariat to the NFFA, fortification committees and sub-committees.

Secure application forms from the **Bureau of Food and Drugs, Office of the Deputy Director for Food, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, City of Muntinlupa (Tel. No. 807-8285).** Submit completed applications to BFAD with the documentary requirements not later than **January 17, 2003.**

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
**PROVINCIAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE**
Dumaguete City

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental invites all interested hospital and medical equipment suppliers to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids to the following requirements viz:

1. One (1) Set Operating Room Light
2. One (1) Unit Fully-Automated Random Access Chemistry Analyzer
3. One (1) Unit Autoclave Machine
4. One (1) Unit Electrolyte Analyzer
5. One (1) Unit Anesthesia Ventilator
6. One (1) Unit Manual Surgical Operating Microscope on Floor Stand
7. One (1) Unit Defibrillator
8. One (1) Unit Examination Light
9. One (1) Unit Dual Display Monitor
10. One (1) Unit Air-Powered Drill
11. One (1) Set Neuro-Micro Instruments

All bidders must accredit with the Committee on Awards on or before January 27, 2003. The list of pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the Committee on Awards Secretariat (Provincial General Services Office).

Only suppliers duly accredited by the Committee on Awards may be furnished the corresponding bid documents and submit bids.

Sealed bids will be accepted on or before January 29, 2003 not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning by the Committee on Awards at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on January 28, 2003 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the same venue.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government, nor to indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) GEORGE P. ARNAIZ
*Governor of Negros Oriental*

(PDI - Jan. 12, 2003)

# NURSING STUDENTS

**Nursing Students Dream USA Program**

**RYMEK ENTERPRISES, INC.**, The Healthcare Personnel Specialists, is offering a special package to the top 2,000 graduating seniors from all over the country. The package includes:

**(1) FREE PHILIPPINE BOARD EXAM FEE**
**(2) FREE PHILIPPINE BOARD EXAM REVIEW CLASSES**
**(3) THE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE**

To be considered, you must be graduating in March 2003 and you must submit the following requirements to the addresses below – asap:

1. Certified copy of transcript of records (up to the 1st semester of senior year)
2. Comprehensive resumé
3. Letter from dean certifying to class ranking
4. One page handwritten essay: Why I choose Rymek's Dream USA nursing students program.

**The Lucky 2,000**

The lucky 2,000 will be joining the close to 2,000 happy nurses who we are processing on behalf of over 100 sponsoring facilities. Hurry up and submit your requirements to the address nearest you.

**Deadline of submission: January 31, 2003**
**Announcement of winners: February 28, 2003**

Visit our web site: www.rymek.com

**The Package – for US Placement**

- Immigrant visa sponsorship (FREE)
- All-expenses-paid trip to Saipan (NCLEX)
- FREE NCLEX fees, licensing fees
- FREE CGFNS/NCLEX/TSE review
- FREE TOEFL, TSE, Visa Screen fees (reimbursement for those who already passed)
- NO Agency fee
- 3 months FREE housing
- FREE legal fees
- FREE plane fare to USA
- NO salary deduction

**Rymek Enterprises, Inc.**
29 N. Fairview Ave., Paramus, New Jersey 07652 USA
Tel. (201) 368-8200 Fax (201) 368-8513
EMAIL: info@rymek.com

**Davao City**
2nd Floor, ASIC Bldg., 369 Bonifacio St.,
Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-0157

**Manila**
1633 Adriatico St.,
Unit #16, Ermita
Tel. (02) 4043406/4043405

**Bacolod City**
PNA Bldg., 1st Lacson St.
Tel. (034) 434-7408

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
*OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY*
CENTRAL OFFICE
Bids and Awards Committee

Bldg. No. 3 San Lazaro Compd
Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telefax No. 743-7236
Trunkline No. 743-8301
Local 1338

## RE-INVITATION FOR BID

Loan No. : 1396-PH (SF)
IFB No. : ICHSP-2002-004LAN

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Health (DOH) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT (ICHSP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Local Area Network Equipment to ICHSP Replication Provinces.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the supply and delivery and installation of Local Area Network Equipment briefly described as follows:

| DESCRIPTION | UNIT | QUANTITY |
|---|---|---|
| File Server | units | 7 |
| Workstation | units | 45 |
| Uninterruptible Power Supply, 2KVA | units | 7 |
| Uninterruptible Power Supply, 750 VA | units | 45 |
| 12-Port Manage Network Switch | units | 14 |
| Laser Printer, Middle-end (mono) | units | 35 |
| Network Cabling | lots | 7 |
| Sy Base SQL Anywhere | units | 7 |
| Norton Anti-Virus Software, Enterprise Edition | sets | 7 |
| Windows 2000 Advanced Server | units | 7 |
| Installation, testing, commissioning, training | lots | 7 |

3. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

| ACTIVITY | DATE | TIME |
|---|---|---|
| Issuance of Bid Documents | January 13 to February 3, 2003 | 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 PM |
| Deadline of Submission of Bids | February 4, 2003 | 1:00 PM |
| Opening of Bids | February 4, 2003 | 1:01 PM |

4. International Shopping procedures will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), POP II Warehouse Bldg., San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
6. The Bidding Documents, in English, may be purchased by interested Bidders at the address above or on the submission of a written application to the address above upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP5,000.00) in cash or ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (US$100.00) plus mailing fee of US$50.00 in the form of bank draft. Documents for overseas delivery shall be sent by airmail or courier while documents for local delivery shall be sent by surface mail or courier. No liability will be accepted for loss of late delivery.
7. Bids must be delivered to the above address in accordance with the instruction to bidders on or before the deadline of submission of bids. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of no less than two percent (2%) of Total Bid Price. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

   CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
   Ground Floor, Bldg. No. 3
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila

8. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
9. In the comparison of Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the instruction to Bidders.
10. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DOH and local health units.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH
*Assistant Secretary of Health and*
*Chairperson, COBAC*

(PDI - January 12, 2003)

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## NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to notify the public that **STOCK CERTIFICATES NOS. 00015045** covering 86,281 shares and **00000229** covering 10,163 shares owned by Alejandra S. Guangko have been issued on November 8, 2001 and declared lost on September 24, 2002. All transactions covered by these documents from said date shall not be honored by

**SUN LIFE OF CANADA PROSPERITY BOND FUND, INC.**
**and SUN LIFE OF CANADA PROSPERITY BALANCED FUND, INC.**

For more information, please call or see us at
10/F Tower II, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue
corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel. No. 849-9999

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

### ANNOUNCEMENT

ANENT M.O. No. 7 WHICH REQUIRE ACCREDITATION OF HACCP AUDITORS TO CONDUCT AUDIT ON MEAT AND MILK PLANTS EXPORTING TO THE PHILIPPINES, THE FOLLOWING ARE OFFICIALLY ACCREDITED BY THE PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOR THE INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE OF ALL CONCERNED.

1. SGS PHILIPPINES, Inc.
   2F, Alegria Bldg., 2229 Chino Roces Ave.
   Makati City, Philippines
   Tel. - (632) 817-56-56
   Fax - (632) 818-2971
2. BUREAU VERITAS
   Suite 3, 4F, Legaspi Towers 300
   Roxas Blvd., Manila
   Tel. - (632) 521-1068 / 526-45-75
   Fax - (632) 521-19-59

(Sgd.) EFREN C. NUESTRO
Executive Director - NMIC
Spokesman on M.O. No. 7

(PDI - January 12, 2003)

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **DREJ KONSTRAKT, INC.** shall be dissolved and will cease to operate effective January 1, 2003 as unanimously agreed by the majority of its incorporators.

(PDI – Dec. 29, 2002, Jan. 5 & 12, 2003)

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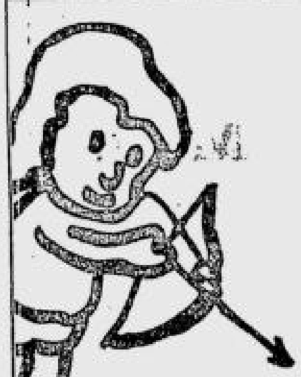

# Sweet Nothings

People often celebrate Valentine's day by giving flowers, chocolates and cards but why not do something unique for a change?

This coming **February 14, 2003**, Valentine's day, **INQUIRER MESSAGEBOARD** will give way to personal greetin love quotes and declaration of love for that special someone in your life.

Avail of this promo at a discounted rate of P50 per line and P150 per column centimeter box ads.

• Rates are VAT exclusive •

**SAMPLE ADS**

Iane,

"LOVE" How can such a small word mean so much?

*Happy Valentine's day!*

love,
Red

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P660 VAT inclusive

Valentine's like you, Trish, don't come along everyday. I love you. – Paul

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 VAT inclusive

My heart beats for you and only for you, Tim. This Valentine's day, let's paint the town red – Mimi

size: 4 lines
cost: P220 VAT inclusive

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MESSAGEBOARD

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
CLASSIFIEDS

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fax 897-8425
e-mail:
main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

**QUEZON CITY:**
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891 AURORA BLVD.,
CUBAO, QC
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e-mail:
cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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BUILDING B, EDSA
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fax 635-0220
e-mail:
sm_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

**MAKATI BRANCH:**
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MAKATI CITY
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fax 892-5578
e-mail:
makati_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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☎ 850-6465

**PROVINCIAL BRANCH:**
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MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8808 loc. 243
☎ 899-4427 (Direct)
fax 897-8425
e-mail: nabad@inquirer.com.ph

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
*OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY*
CENTRAL OFFICE
Bids and Awards Committee

Bldg. No. 3 San Lazaro Compd
Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telefax No. 743-7236
Trunkline No. 743-8301
Local 1338

### NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF BIDDING

Loan No.. 1396-PH (SF)
IFB No.: ICHSP-2002-006TE

1. The Department of Health hereby notifies eligible bidders from member countries of ADB that the bid opening for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Telecommunications Equipment for the Province of Guimaras** under the Integrated Community Health Services Project has been postponed from December 9, 2002 to January 29, 2003.
2. Interested eligible bidders may still purchase complete set of bidding documents at the **Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), POP II Warehouse Bldg., San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS** (Php5,000.00) or **ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS** (US$150) including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be in cash or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications to bidders.
3. Bids must be delivered to the following address: **CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE, Ground Fl.oor, Bldg. No. 3, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila** at or before 6:00 PM, 29 January 2003, after which all bids will be immediately opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of Total Bid Price in the currency of the bid or any freely convertible currency. Late bids shall be rejected.
4. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DOH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD., MPH
Assistant Secretary of Health and
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – January 12, 2003)

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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Plese be informed that

**MR. MICHAEL F. LOPEZ**

Banquet Coordinator, is no loner connected with The Orchard Golf & Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite effective December 19, 2002. All transactions made by him after the above mentioned date will not be honored by the company.

(PDI – January 12, 2003)

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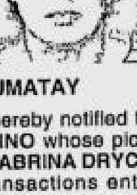
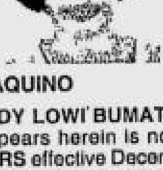
## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



BUMATAY



AQUINO

The public is hereby notified that **ANDY LOWI BUMATAY** and **IMELDA AQUINO** whose picture appears herein is no longer connected to **SABRINA DRYCLEANERS** effective December 16, 2002. Any transactions entered into by him for **SABRINA DRYCLEANERS** after the said date will no longer be honored by the establishment.

(PDI – January 12, 2003)

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION**
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
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Day before publication

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The Board of Directors,
Management & Staff of

CLAIMSMEN ADJUSTMENT CORPORATION

Announces with deep sorrow the
passing of our beloved
President and Chairman of the Board

## VERBO M. CELINO

He peacefully joined his Creator
on January 10, 2003 at the age of 76.

His remains lie in state at
Don Bosco, Love Chapel, Makati City.

Interment will be on Monday, January 13, 2003
at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City
at 11:00 a.m.

---

## GAVINO B. ATENGCO, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 8, 2003
at the age of 79.

His bereaved wife SIMEONA; children ANGELITA & ELMER YANESA, ZENY, NELLIE & SHEM YAP, FELY & RENE CANO, LINDA & CARLOS ENRIQUEZ, REYNALDO & LOURDES ATENGCO, ROMEO & CIELO ATENGCO, ERIC & JOY ATENGCO, GAVINO, JR., MIMAY & NILO GUARTE, BABONG, RICKY, MALOU & CHIT; grandchildren & great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the ternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on January 15, 2003 at the Manila North Cemetery. Mass will be held at Sto. Domingo Church at 9:00 a.m.

---

## VICTOR UANG LIONG

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord*
*on January 10, 2003 at the age of 64.*

His bereaved wife **Rosario**; children **Debbie**, **Diane** and **Wilbert Go**, and **Steven**; brother **Ricardo** and **Mary**; nieces and nephew **Emily** and **George Tipoe**, **Eleanore** and **Craig Simpson**, **Michael** and **Doxa**, **Elaine** and **Rick Averitt** and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. There will be a Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2003.

Cremation will follow.

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*... it is in dying*
*that we are born*
*to eternal life*

His words of wisdom taught us that integrity and honor were a man's greatest wealth. In spirit and in memory, this legacy shall remain forever etched in our hearts.

But the best legacy he left us were his dear friends, classmates and associates, who remained true and faithful to the end. In them, we found solace and strength and they have sustained us in our hour of grief.

**To them...** our most heartfelt and lasting gratitude
**For them...** we pray for God's continued blessings.

From the loved ones of the late

Carmelito
"Jimmy" Vicente

---

## HERMINIA MORALES IDIOMA

OF PARACALE AND DAET, CAMARINES NORTE

*Peacefully joined our Lord and Mother Mary*
*on January 8, 2003 at the age of 66.*

Her loving husband **Alberto "Bert" P. Idioma**; children **Augustus Caesar (Ace)** and **Sonia**, **Albert Thaddeus (Teddy)** and **Caneth**, **Albert Michael (Mike)** and **Tinni**, **Vicente Manuel (Manny)** and **Windy**, **Herman Antonio** and **Binky**, **Boyet** and **Nina Mabel Gavino**; grandchildren **Jomari**, **Junning**, **Alvee**, **Martha**, **Nessie Ann**, **Maria Sofia**, **Andrea** and **Ellan**; siblings **Eric Morales**, **Lydia** and **Gabriel Bustamante**, **Gloria** and **Adolfo Cayaba**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at Roseville Subdivision, Daet, Camarines Norte.

Interment will be announced later.

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## INTERMENT NOTICE

### ANGELES (TALA) POBLETE OCAMPO

**Date** : Tuesday, January 14, 2003
**Place** : Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City
**Time** : After 2:00 PM Mass at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City

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*An obituary*
*with a picture*
*can be a*
*fitting tribute*
*to your*
*departed loved*
*one.*
*Always caring...*
**INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

---

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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*"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*
*- Matthew 11:28*

*In Loving Memory of*

## Jerome David Santos, M. D.

**UP College of Medicine 1990**

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on 7 January 2003 at the age of 38.*

His loving parents **Ernesto R. Santos** and **Remedios D. Santos**; brothers **David** and **Jonathan**; sister-in-law **Pauline**; grandmother **Ines P. David**; bereaved wife **Joanna Caccam**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the Claret Parish Church in UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City until Monday, January 13, 2003 after which he will be transferred on the morning of January 14, 2003 to the UP Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 14 January 2003 after the Holy Mass at 1:30 p.m. at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

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In Loving Memory
on the 2nd Death Anniversary of

## Engr. Felix Jose L. Comuyog "Joey"

who peacefully joined his Creator
on January 12, 2001.

His parents **Felix** and **Mirla**; wife **Almira**; daughter **Jomira Denise**; sisters **Marifela, Minna, Mabel, Trecie, Fidesminda** and niece **Ayah Cristina** request relatives and friends to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

**Masses will be offered at:**

San Roque Parish Church, Pateros, MM — 5:00 AM / 4:45 PM
Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Pateros, MM — 3:00 PM

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*"Whoever finds his life will lose it,*
*and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."* — Matthew 10:39

*Our Beloved Tatay*

## Guillermo "Guilling" L. Roxas

**Former Councilor and Vice Mayor of Tanauan, Batangas**
**Director, Batangas Elec. Cooperative II**
**Director, BISPCMA**

*Peacefully joined his Creator on January 7, 2003 at the age of 75.*

Wife **Leonora**; children **Elena** and **Gerry Mercado**, **Nuning** and **Tina**, **Noli** and **Evelyn**, **Nemy** and **Johnny Pluton**, **Abet** and **Luz**, **Zeny**, **Bellie**, **Josie** and **Udo Schilling** and **Fe**; sisters **Maring (+)**, **Luming**, **Rora**, **Atring**, **Linda**; brothers **Julio (+)**, **Dandong (+)**, **Edong**, **Nestor**, **Rudolf** and **Jeffrey**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request those whose lives he touched to join them in praising God for his life now in the company of his Beloved Creator.

His remains lie in state at his residdence in Brgy. Sambat, Tanauan City, Batangas.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 14, 2003 after the necrological services at Tanauan Municipal Hall, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass, at Tanauan Municipal Cemetery, Tanauan City, Batangas.

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"You whose company I enjoyed at whose side
I walked in procession in the house of God."
**Psalm 55:15**

---

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42 Lot/L551-A-2-A-3 Pineda Cmpd Bonifacio St, Canumay East *LA 1,114* ***Min Bid - P3,320,000***

TAGUIG

43 Lot w/ 2-sty ofc bldg/Lot 4560-C, Int. Maestrang Penang Ligid-Tipas *LA 326 / FA 512* ***Min Bid - P3,990,000***

TAYTAY

44 Res Bldg/Road Lot 4, Ciudad Del Sol II, Bgy. Sta. Ana *LA 137.50 / FA 65* ***Min Bid - P980,000***

QUEZON

45 H&L/L17 B3, Lakandula St.,Tuazon Subd, Tayabas *LA 180 / FA 165* ***Min Bid - P895,000***

46 Lot / L15 B7, Olive St, Greenville Subd., Ayuti, Lucban / *LA 150* ***Min Bid - P320,000***

CALOOCAN CITY

47 H&L/106-F Interior A. Del Mundo, 1st Ave *LA 28 / FA 62.40* ***Min Bid - P 820,000***

Sta. Maria, Bulacan Sunrays Village

48 Lot-L2 B2 / *LA 70* ***Min Bid - P100,000***

49 Lot-L6 B2 / *LA 70* ***Min Bid - P100,000***

50 Lot-L8 B2 / *LA 70* ***Min Bid - P100,000***

51 Lot-L16 B2 / *LA 70* ***Min Bid - P100,000***

52 Lot-L18 B2 / *LA 70* ***Min Bid - P100,000***

53 Lot-L20 B2 / *LA 70* ***Min Bid - P100,000***

TARLAC

54 H&L/Lots 2,3,13 & 14 B32, San Rafael Homesite, *TLA 1,164 / FA 219.62* ***Min Bid - P3,160,000***

**COMMERCIAL**

QUEZON CITY

55 Ofc/Whse-No 399 Del Monte Avenue, Brgy. Manresa, nr Banawe *TLA 2,401.3 / FA 487* ***Min Bid - P65,000,000***

56 Lot (6 lots) Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches/*TLA34,045* ***Min Bid - P51,500,000***

57 Whouse/Lot 3 & 21 B26 Roosevelt Ave.,SFDM *TLA 5,641* ***Min Bid - P150,000,000***

MAKATI

58 Lot/Lot 1-B & Lot 2-B, Buendia Ave corner Marconi St./TLA 472 ***Min Bid - P16,200,000***

59 Condo/5F Millenium Plaza, Eduque St cor Mkti Ave / *TLA 261.24* ***Min Bid - P14,500,000***

MANILA

60 Dormitory-3 sty/ # 352 M.F. Jhocson St. *LA 489 3 / TFA 1,620 5* ***Min Bid - P16,700,000***

61 2F KP Tower CM Recto cor J Luna Sts / *FA 658* ***Min Bid - P23,500,000***

62 Bldg 1-4sty, Bldg 2-3-sty, 1931 &1933 Rizal Ave., Sta Cruz *LA 675 / FA 2,457* ***Min Bid - P30,705,000***

PASIG

63 Ofc-Condo w/prkng/ Unit 2004 OMM CITRA Condo, Sn Miguel *FA 153 64* ***Min Bid - P6,600,000***

VALENZUELA

64 Ind'l Lot/Bo. Lingunan *LA 7,841* ***Min Bid - P2,800,000***

TARLAC CITY

65 Lot/L4-A, Panganiban St Tarlac City/*LA 1,120* ***Min Bid - P11,610,800***

66 Lot/L4-B, Panganiban cor Rizal Sts / *LA 1,102* ***Min Bid - P11,424,120***

67 Lot/L4-C, Rizal St., Tarlac City / *LA 759* ***Min Bid - P7,868,350***

BATANGAS

68 Lot /J Gonzales St, Bo Pagaspas, Tanauan *LA 47,950* ***Min Bid - P31,200,000***

NUEVA ECIJA

69 Agr'l Land / Bo. Sto. Tomas, Jaen, NE *LA 20,000* ***Min Bid - P3,240,000***

70 Agr'l Land / Lots 2974-A-44, Maycayan, Cuyapo, NE / *LA 1,000* ***Min Bid - P25,000***

71 Agr'l Land / Lots 2974-A-45, Maycayan, Cuyapo, NE / *LA 1,000* ***Min Bid - P25,000***

ANGONO, RIZAL

72 Lot/L1 B6,#168 Ilang-ilang cor Gumamela Sts , Nieves Hills Lakeview Subd, Angono / *LA 598* ***Min Bid - P1,850,000***

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*HOUSE & LOT*

Mandaluyong City

1. B Francisco Comp. F. Roxas Brgy. Pag-Asa LA - 228 sqm Min. bid P4,200,000.00

Quezon City

2. Matambing St., UP Vill., Diliman 2 sty 5BR/3TB/1MR/Big lawn LA-608.8 sqm FA-636 sqm Min. bid P16,888,000.00

3. Spring Drive, Congressional Vil. Residential bldg LA- 486 sqm Min. bid P12,200,000.00

4. Don Alejandro St., Greenfield Novaliches LA-618 sqm. Min. bid P10,000,000.00

Parañaque City

5. St Peter St., Multinational Vill. Res'd./Ind. Bldg LA-800 sqm Min. bid P19,000,000.00

Malabon

6. M.H. del Pilar Street, Santolan Residential bldg LA-1,419 sqm. Min. bid P20,000,000.00

Baguio City

7. Leonard Wood Loop LA-4,105 sqm. FA-953.15 sqm. Min. bid P41,050,000.00

Batangas

8. Felix Manalo St., Poblacion, Lipa W/basement LA-215 FA-150.24 Min. bid P2,420,113.34

9. Felix Manalo St., Poblacion, Lipa 5Door Apt. LA-215 FA-168 sqm Min. bid P2,420,113.34

Bulacan

10. Brgy. Tukiukan, Guiguinto 7Door Res'd. Apt. w/garment bldg LA-684 sqm FA-560 sqm. Min. bid P4,368,800.50

11. Mabel Compnd., Ibayo Marilao 3BR/3TB LA-450 FA-366.50 Min. bid P4,093,854.17

12. Libis St., Libis, San Rafael 4BR/2TB LA-254 FA-264 Min. bid P1,199,637.50

13. Tiwala St., Borol 1st, Balagtas 1 sty Bldg LA-254 FA-264 Min. bid P1,009,000.00

Laguna

14. Ceres Subdivision, Carlubang 4 adj. lots - 2 sty Resd'l bldg. LA - 1,000 sqm FA - 291.68 Min. bid P5,122,226.67

15. Rizal St., Balimbingan, Lumban Resd'l. bldg LA - 108 sqm Min. bid P2,000,000.00

Rizal

16. Maria Venson St., Glora Hgts. Antipolo LA - 230 sqm. Min. bid P1,250,000.00

Quezon Province

17. Rosal Extn. And Sta. Rita Sts. Montog Subd., Brgy. Gulang Gulang Lucena City 4 Adj. Lots w/split-level LA-948 Min. bid P4,800,000.00

Nueva Ecija

18. Paco Roman Extension, Padre Crisostomo, Cabanatuan City 2 Sty 4-Door Apartment bldg. LA-510 sqm FA-340.30 sqm. Min. bid P2,889,768.80

19. Barangay Valdefuente, N.E. 1 sty LA-365 FA-120.30 Min. bid P1,034,750.00

South Cotabato

20. Dadiangas Hgts., Lagao, Gen Santos 2 Sty LA-400 Min. bid P2,381,900.00

Quezon City

22. Happy Homes, Bahay Toro 2 sty LA - 84 FA - 82.38 Min. bid P1,560,000.00

23. Villa Ortigas Townhomes I Pinagbuhatan, Santolan 2 Sty. LA-68.80 FA-69 sqm. Min. bid P4,000,000.00

24. Road 3, Project 6, Q.C. 3 Sty. 5BR/2TB/1garage LA - 84 sqm FA - 236 sqm. Min. bid P4,000,000.00

Baguio City

25. Eagle Crest Villa Bakakeng Rd.
LA-123.5 Min. bid P2,465,000
LA-128 Min. bid P2,575,000
LA-145.5 Min. bid P2,964,000
LA-150 Min. bid P2,640,000 (2)
LA-160 Min. bid P3,193,000

Pangasinan

26. Ivory Coast Townhomes, Bonuan Gueset, Dagupan City 2 Units at LA-60 FA-56.62/each Min. bid P720,000.00/each

*CONDOMINIUM*

Manila

27. Stanisco Towers, F. Agoncillo cor Pedro Gil Sts., Ermita 2 Comm'l. units (G/F & Mezz.) Floor Area - 614.33 sqm. Min. bid P16,500,000.00

Pasig City

28. Chateau Verde Condominium E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. FA-152.72 Min. bid P4,376,160.00

Quezon City

29. Arayat Mansion, Cubao
FA-33.37/1 Min. bid P834,250
FA-30.57/5 Min. bid P764,250
FA-28.79/5 Min. bid P719,750
FA-28.41/5 Min. bid P710,250
FA-28.47/5 Min. bid P711,750
FA-28.41/5 Min. bid P710,250
FA-33.37/1 Min. bid P834,250
FA-37.46/1 Min. bid P936,500
FA-28.79/5 Min. bid P719,750
FA-29.09/5 Min. bid P727,250
FA-28.47/5 Min. bid P711,750
FA-28.41/5 Min. bid P710,250
FA-29.01/1 Min. bid P725,250
FA-58.58/1 Min. bid P1,462,450
FA-56.82/5 Min. bid P1,420,500

*BUILDING*

Muntinlupa

30. Rizal Village, Brgy. Cupang Ind'l. w/4bldgs., 2 Shed type LA - 3,506 FA - 1,437 Min. bid P15,401,201.67

31. National Rd. Brgy. Bayanan 2 Sty. W/terrace LA-868 sqm. Min. bid P15,557,520

32. Agno St., Ayala Alabang Vill 2 Sty W/basement LA-675 Min. bid P26,100,000.00

Pasig City

33. Sixto Antonio Ave., Maybunga 1 Factory & 1 Office Bldg LA-623 FA-549.08 (f) 188.02 (o) Min. bid P11,855,717.00

Manila

34. Del Pan Street, Binondo 5 Sty Resd'l. Bldg LA-161.89 Min. bid P23,000,000.00

Quezon City

35. Sauyo Road, Novaliches 2 Whse Bldgs. LA-2,172 sqm. Min. bid P23,839,874

36. San Antonio cor. M.H. del Pilar San Francisco del Monte 4Sty Unfin. Condo bldg LA399 sqm. Min. bid P9,496,816.00

Valenzuela

37. Maysan Road - 2 Sty Com'l. LA- 1,365 FA- 545.99 Min. bid P12,873,581.00

Bulacan

38. B. Sapang Putol San Ildefonso (Floresiah Hmsg.) LA - 991 sqm Min. bid P5,900,000.00

Nueva Ecija

39. Baler Rd., Sangitan, Cabanatuan 2 Sty Resd'l/Comm'l. LA-172 Min. bid P1,600,000.00

Cavite

40. Aguinaldo Hgwy. Niog, Bacoor 2 Sty Comm'l bldg. LA-2,746 Min. bid P71,700,000.00

Bataan

41. Ma. Fe Subd. Bo. Kaparangan Orani w/bldg. LA-1,778 Min. bid P7,965,326

Batangas

42. Prov. Rd., Brgy. Tangob Padre Garcia Whse LA-7,007 FA-1,122 Min. bid P5,853,100.00

Oriental Mindoro

43. Tibag, Calapan Or. Mindoro Ind'l. lot w/bldg. LA-2,804 FA-825 Min. bid P3,562,663.33

Nueva Ecija

44. Panumog St., Brgy. Sangitan 12BR Dormitory Bldg LA-587 Min. bid P2,669,768.80

45. Samson Subd., Brgy. Sumacab Whse. LA-240 FA-168 sqm Min. bid P810,560.00

Laguna

46. Bo. Mayapa, Calamba LA-3,444 Min. bid P37,000,000.00

*LOTS*

Manila

47. P. Sanchez St., Sampaloc Prime Comm'l. lot LA-657 Min. bid P17,200,000.00

Muntinlupa

48. Susana Heights, Muntinlupa Resd'l. lot LA - 703 sqm. Min. bid P2,109,000.00

Las Piñas City

49. Valencia cor. Castellano Sts BF Homes Subd., Pamplona Min. bid P2,156,000.00

Quezon City

50. Araneta East Village, Q.C. Resd'l. lot LA - 609.1 sqm. Min. bid P9,000,000.00

Marikina

51. Sunburst St., SSS Village 6 Ind. titled lots LA-540 sqm. Min. bid P2,430,000.00

Bulacan

52. Metropolis Subd., Meycauayan Rawland LA - 12,319 sqm Min. bid P10,000,000.00

53. Town & Country North Lots only LA-130 sqm. UP Min. bid P3,500/sq.m. H&L LA-130 sqm UP Min. bid P5,000-P6,000/sqm. UP

Batangas

54. Sakura Executive Vill, Marawoy Resd'l. lot LA - 300 sqm. Min. bid P2,420,113.34

55. Mt. Malarayat Golf & Country Club 16 Non-Fairway LA-501-1,477 Min. bid P4,000/sq.m. 15 Fairway LA-642-1,991 sqm Min. bid P5,000/sq.m.

56. P. Torres & G. Lantay Sts., Lipa Comm'l. w/old structure LA-269 Min. bid P9,415,000.00

57. Brgy. Balintawak, Lipa Vacant lot LA - 800 sqm. Min. bid P3,600,000.00

58. City Park Subdivision, Lipa Resd'l. lot LA-960 sqm. Min. bid P1,600,000.00

59. Prov. Rd. Marawoy, Lipa 3 Comm'l. lots LA -300 Min. bid P6,900,000.00

Cavite

60. Coastal City, Timalan, Naic Resd'l. lot LA - 240 sqm. Min. bid P1,008,000.00

61. Metro South Subd., Buenavista Gen. Trias - 2 Resd'l lots LA-256 Min. bid P941,000 LA-250 Min. bid P750,000

62. Mia Southwoods, Carmona Resd'l lot LA-645 sqm. Min. bid P5,818,000.00

63. The Garden Grove Subd., Dasmariñas LA- 72-256 Min. bid P3,600/sq.m.

64. Brgy. Bancal, Carmona Comm'l. lot LA-3,750 sqm Min. bid P18,750,000.00

65. Town & Country, Dasmariñas Various Res. Lots LA-60-214 Min. bid P3,600/sq.m.

Laguna

66. Town & Country, Southville Ph. 7 Biñan LA- 108-281 sqm. Min. bid P3,500/sq.m.

Rizal

67. Town & Country Hills, Brgy. Inarawan, Antipolo City Resd'l. lot LA - 316 sqm. Min. bid P1,264,000.00

68. Arceemar Village, Bo. San Isidro, Angono LA - 1,046 Min. bid P2,301,200.00

69. Victoria Valley Homes Subd. Mayamot, Antipolo City Resd'l lot LA - 7,688 sqm. Min. bid P15,320,000.00

70. Barrington Place, Town & Country Estates, Antipolo City LA-388-574 sqm /each Min. bid P5,800/sq.m.

71. Mission Hills, Antipolo City
Santa Monica 1 - 1,592 sqm.
Santa Monica 2 - 500 sqm.
Santa Barbara 1 - 2,145 sqm.
Min. bid P4,500/sq.m.

Nueva Ecija

72. Provincial Road, Barangay Bangad, Cabanatuan City Res./Agro-Ind'l. lot LA-14,871 Min. bid P9,203,000.00

73. Tierra Grande Homes, Cabu Cabanatuan LA - 73,726 Min. bid P37,494,000.00

Cebu

74. Brgy. Pitalo, San Fernando Vacant lot LA-130,606 sqm Min. bid P500/sq.m.

Iloilo

75. Barrio Loong, Concepcion
LA - 2,290 sq. m.
LA - 6,957 sq. m.
LA - 9,347 sq. m.
Min. bid P200/sq. m.

Negros Occidental

76. Town & Country, Cambridge Bacolod Various Res. lots LA-130-200 sq.m Min. bid P4,000/sq.m.

77. Eroreco Subd. Bacolod Various Residential lots LA-2,857 - 3,893 sq. m Min. bid P2,820/sq. m.

78. Town & Country, Windsor Ph.1 Brgy. Mabsib-ang, Talisay Various Residential lots LA-240 - 573 sq.m. Min. bid P5,125/sq.m.

Davao

79. Emerald St., Ecoland Phase 2 Davao City Residential lot Lot area 241 sq. m Min. bid P1,482,600.00

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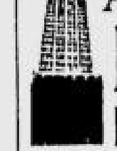

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### QUEZON CITY

Kamuning 18M 450m² 9480760

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400m²@10K St. West Kamias QC; H&L@55 Villa Verde Homes, Novaliches QC 240m² bung. CONDO@Ramirez St. Cubao QC. Call 0918-9248321 / 9220868 Tess

### HOUSE & LOT

### KALOOCAN

CAMARIN Cal City LA240m² FA104m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic/Gio 8903461 loc. 27

### MANILA

31sqmLA /60sqmFA (2storey) 2BR/1TB/Renovated like New Kalimbas St nr Gov. Forbes P1.88M neg CP 09189202278

MAKATI
H&L 200sqm Buendia Near Bautista St., P15M Negotiable Pls. Call Dra. Fe Melchor Cell 0918-7699363

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### OTHER AREAS

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## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

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**RESIDENTIAL**

**QUEZON CITY**

1 Res' l Thse-2 Sty/Lot 9 Martinez St, Doña Carmen, C'monwealth
*LA 93.34 / FA 78*
***Min Bid - P1,456,800***

2 Res' l Thse-3 Sty/ #65-C Mapang-Akit St, V Luna, Piñahan, QC
*LA 61 / FA 150*
***Min Bid - P3,106,400***

3 Thse-3 Sty/L1-D B58 # 66 Rd 1 cor Rd 32, Project 6, Q. C.
*LA 80 / FA 261*
***Min Bid - P3,349,500***

4 Res Apart-2 Sty/Castro Cmpd, Sn Lorenzo St Sta Lucia, Novaliches
*LA 250 / FA 369*
***Min Bid - P4,308,100***

5 Thse/Unit A-2,5BR,5TB w/attic & gar, Baler
*LA 163 / FA 244*
***Min Bid - P4,600,000***

6 Thse/Unit A-8,4BR,4TB w/attic & gar, Baler
*LA 129 / FA 258*
***Min Bid - P4,400,000***

7 H&L/2-sty w/ 3BR,2TB gar & attic/L3 B5, Waling-waling St, Nomar II Subd
*LA 240 / FA 224.05*
***Min Bid - P1,535,000***

8 H&L/#43 Reliance Rd., Nagkaisang Nayon
*TLA 242 / FA 145*
***Min Bid - P1,200,000***

**MAKATI**

9 Condo/Unit 6-A, 6/F T-Tower Condominium, Burgos / FA 75
***Min Bid - P2,250,000***

**LAS PINAS**

10 Thse / Unit 10 Union Villas Townhomes BF Resort, Talon Dos
*LA 69.40 / FA 101*
***Min Bid - P 2,050,000***

11 Thse / Unit 13-C Union VillasTownhomes BF Resort, Talon Dos
*LA 57.60 / FA 94*
***Min Bid - P 1,660,000***

**ANTIPOLO**

12 Lot/L6B4 Mission Hills Blvd Sta Barbara I Mission Hills Subd
*LA 1,062*
***Min Bid - P 2,900,000***

**SAN JUAN**

13 Condo/Unit 52 Midland Park Manor II,Ortigas cor Roosevelt G'hills
*FA 183*
***Min Bid - P5,200,000***

**MUNTINLUPA**

14 Thouse/2-sty, Aguila Villa Townhomes Susana Drive
*LA 82.5 / FA 92.5*
***Min Bid - P1,600,000***

**PARANAQUE CITY**

15 H&L /JT Vergara St, JestraVillas, Valley 3, San Antonio, P'que
*LA 200 / FA 233*
***Min Bid - P3,400,000***

16 Condo/Unit 4 Bellez L11-04 Levitown Condo Villas II, Don Lauro Drive cor. Alicante St La Huerta/ FA 88
***Min Bid - P1,960,000***

**PASIG**

17 Condo-3BR,5TB, maids rm& parking/Unit 2803, AIC Gold Tower Emerald Ave.,Ortigas
*FA 193.03* ***
***Min Bid - P7,200,000***

16 Condo-3BR,5TB, maid's rm,& parking/Unit 2802, AIC Gold Tower Emerald Ave.,Ortigas
*FA 187.02* ***
***Min Bid - P6,900,000***

**** CCT in bank's name, but land and common areas with real estate taxes unpaid by developer.*

**CAVITE**

19 H&L/L18 B11, 8th St AlfonsoVIII, Alapan, Imus
*LA 38 / FA 40*
***Min Bid - P300,000***

20 T'hse/ L1, B88, City Homes Resortville PH2, Brgy Lancaan
*LA 77 / FA 36*
***Min Bid - P280,000***

**RESIDENTIAL**

**Orchard Real Estate & Golf & Country Club Dasmarinas, Cavite**

FAIRWAY LOTS

21 L46 Blk 50 / *LA 630*
***Min Bid - P2,394,000***

22 L55 Blk 50 / *LA 572*
***Min Bid - P2,174,000***

23 L57 Blk 50 / *LA 480*
***Min Bid - P1,824,000***

24 L58 Blk 50 / *LA 767*
***Min Bid - P2,915,000***

25 L14 Blk 4 / *LA 731*
***Min Bid - P2,780,000***

26 L31 Blk 30 / *LA 858*
***Min Bid - P3,265,000***

NON FAIRWAY LOTS

27 L53 Blk 17 / *LA 611*
***Min Bid - P2,433,000***

28 L23 Blk 49 / *LA 579*
***Min Bid - P1,737,000***

29 L59 Blk 50 / *LA 513*
***Min Bid - P1,539,000***

30 L9 Blk 37 / *LA 672*
***Min Bid - P2,016,000***

**Peninsula De Punta Fuego Resort, Balaytigue Nasugbu, Batangas**

*Note: Subject to right of first refusal from ROXACO Land Corp. w/in 15 days*

31 Lot/L2 Blk15 / *LA 492*
***Min Bid - P4,920,000***

32 Lot/L3 Blk15 / *LA 574*
***Min Bid - P5,740,000***

33 Lot/L16 Blk26 / *LA 772*
***Min Bid - P7,720,000***

34 Lot/L17 Blk26 / *LA 868*
***Min Bid - P8,680,000***

**LAGUNA**

35 Lot/Lot 12 Block 8, Villa Teresita Resort Homes, Pansol - Calamba / *LA 310*
***Min Bid - P540,000***

36 Lot/L13 B8. Villa Teresita Resort Homes, Pansol Calamba / *LA 310*
***Min Bid - P540,000***

37 Res Apt/ Rd Lot 4 cor L 51 Villa Olympia VI, San Pedro
*LA 210 / FA 322.01*
***Min Bid - P2,450,000***

38 H&L w/ swimmng pool Brgy. Pansol, Calamba
*LA 1,141 / FA 336*
***Min Bid - P6,825,000***

**VALENZUELA**

39 Apt/2-sty&1sty/Lot 34 B7 # 5078 G de Leon
*LA 180 / TFA 141*
***Min Bid - P1,020,000***

40 H&L/L15 B3, Silvestre St, Azicate Homes, General T. De Leon
*LA 130 / FA 56*
***Min Bid - P775,000***

41 T'hse/Lot 791-B2-A1-B8-B, U-9, Sunriser Cmpd Chico
*LA 31.20 / FA 51*
***Min Bid - P610,000***

42 Lot/L551-A-2-A-3 Pineda Cmpd Bonifacio St, Canumay East
*LA 1,114*
***Min Bid - P3,320,000***

**TAGUIG**

43 Lot w/ 2-sty ofc bldg/Lot 4560-C, Int. Maestrang Penang Ligid-Tipas
*LA 326 / FA 512*
***Min Bid - P3,990,000***

**TAYTAY**

44 Res Bldg/Road Lot 4, Ciudad Del Sol II, Bgy. Sta. Ana
*LA 137.50 / FA 65*
***Min Bid - P980,000***

**QUEZON**

45 H&L/L17 B3, Lakandula St.,Tuazon Subd, Tayabas
*LA 180 / FA 165*
***Min Bid - P895,000***

46 Lot / L15 B7, Olive St, Greenville Subd., Ayuti, Lucban / *LA 150*
***Min Bid - P320,000***

**CALOOCAN CITY**

47 H&L/109-F Interior A. Del Mundo, 1st Ave
*LA 28 / FA 62.40*
***Min Bid - P 820,000***

**Sta. Maria, Bulacan Sunraya Village**

48 Lot-L2 B2 / LA 70
***Min Bid - P100,000***

49 Lot-L6 B2 / LA 70
***Min Bid - P100,000***

50 Lot-L8 B2 / LA 70
***Min Bid - P100,000***

51 Lot-L16 B2 / LA 70
***Min Bid - P100,000***

52 Lot-L18 B2 / LA 70
***Min Bid - P100,000***

53 Lot-L20 B2 / LA 70
***Min Bid - P100,000***

**TARLAC**

54 H&L/Lots 2,3,13 & 14 B32, San Rafael Homesite,
*TLA 1,164 / FA 219.62*
***Min Bid - P3,160,000***

**COMMERCIAL**

**QUEZON CITY**

55 Ofc/Whse-No 399 Del Monte Avenue, Brgy. Manresa, nr Banawe
*TLA 2,401.3 / FA 487*
***Min Bid - P65,000,000***

56 Lot (6 lots) Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches/*TLA34,045*
***Min Bid - P51,500,000***

57 Whouse/Lot 3 & 21 B26 Roosevelt Ave.,SFDM
*TLA 5,641*
***Min Bid - P150,000,000***

**MAKATI**

58 Lot/Lot 1-B & Lot 2-B, Buendia Ave corner Marconi St./TLA 472
***Min Bid - P16,200,000***

59 Condo/5F Millenium Plaza, Eduque St cor Mkti Ave / *TLA 261.24*
***Min Bid - P14,500,000***

**MANILA**

60 Dormitory-3 sty/ # 352 M.F. Jhocson St.
*LA 489.3 / TFA 1,620.5*
***Min Bid - P16,700,000***

61 2F KP Tower CM Recto cor J Luna Sts / *FA 658*
***Min Bid - P23,500,000***

62 Bldg 1-4sty, Bldg 2-3-sty, 1931 &1933 Rizal Ave., Sta Cruz
*LA 675 / FA 2,457*
***Min Bid - P30,705,000***

**PASIG**

63 Ofc-Condo w/prkng/ Unit 2004 OMM CITRA Condo, Sn Miguel
*FA 153.64*
***Min Bid - P6,600,000***

**VALENZUELA**

64 Ind'l Lot/Bo. Lingunan
*LA 7,641*
***Min Bid - P2,800,000***

**TARLAC CITY**

65 Lot/L4-A, Panganiban St Tarlac City/*LA 1,120*
***Min Bid - P11,610,800***

66 Lot/L4-B, Panganiban cor Rizal Sts / *LA 1,102*
***Min Bid - P11,424,120***

67 Lot/L4-C, Rizal St., Tarlac City / *LA 759*
***Min Bid - P7,868,350***

**BATANGAS**

68 Lot /J Gonzales St, Bo Pagaspas, Tanauan
*LA 47,950*
***Min Bid - P31,200,000***

**NUEVA ECIJA**

69 Agr'l Land / Bo. Sto. Tomas, Jaen, NE
*LA 20,000*
***Min Bid - P3,240,000***

70 Agr'l Land / Lots 2974-A-44, Maycayan, Cuyapo, NE / *LA 1,000*
***Min Bid - P25,000***

71 Agr'l Land / Lots 2974-A-45, Maycayan, Cuyapo, NE / *LA 1,000*
***Min Bid - P25,000***

**ANGONO, RIZAL**

72 Lot/L1 B8,#168 Ilang-ilang cor Gumamela Sts , Nieves Hills Lakeview Subd, Angono / *LA 598*
***Min Bid - P1,850,000***

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### OTHER AREAS

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### QUEZON CITY

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### HOUSE & LOT

### LAS PINAS

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4.M NEGOTIABLE
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### HOUSE & LOT

### LAS PINAS

New House & Lot for rent/sale up & down with garden, 4 B. Rooms, 4 toilets & bath /car garrage
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### QUEZON CITY

Greenfields 1 Nova. QC Bungalow 3br 2tb LA-200m² FA-80m² P2M Neg. 928-0767

MALIKSI STREET 455sqm Duplx 929-4937 / 0917-5287456

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### COMML/RESDL

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***HOUSE & LOT***

**Mandaluyong City**

1. B. Francisco Comp. F. Roxas Brgy. Pag-Asa LA – 228 sqm Min. bid P4,260,000.00

**Quezon City**

2. Malambing St., UP Vill., Diliman 2 stry. 5BR/6TB/1MR/Big lawn LA-608.8 sqm FA-636 sqm. Min. bid P18,088,000.00
3. Spring Drive,Congressional Vill. Residential bldg. LA- 499 sqm. Min. bid P12,200,000.00
4. Don Alejandro St., Greenfield Novaliches LA-818 sqm. Min. bid P10,000,000.00

**Parañaque City**

5. St. Peter St., Multinational Vill. Resd'l./Ind. Bldg. LA-600 sqm. Min. bid P19,000,000.00

**Malabon**

6. M.H. del Pilar Street, Santolan Residential bldg. LA-1,419 sqm. Min. bid P20,000,000.00

**Baguio City**

7. Leonard Wood Loop LA-4,105 sqm. FA-953.15 sqm. Min. bid P41,050,000.00

**Batangas**

8. Felix Manalo St., Poblacion, Lipa W/basement LA-215 FA-150.24 Min. bid P2,420,113.34
9. Felix Manalo St., Poblacion, Lipa 5Door Apt. LA-215 FA-168 sqm Min. bid P2,420,113.34

**Bulacan**

10. Brgy. Tuktukan, Guiguinto 7Door Res'tl. Apt. w/garment bldg LA-664 sqm. FA-560 sqm. Min. bid P4,368,800.00
11. Mabel Compnd., Ibayo, Marilao 3BR/3TB LA-450 FA-366.50 Min. bid P4,083,654.17
12. Libis St., Libis, San Rafael 4BR/2TB LA-254 FA-264 Min. bid P1,199,637.50
13. Tiwala St., Borol 1st, Balagtas 1 stry. Bldg. LA-254 FA-264 Min. bid P1,009,000.00

**Laguna**

14. Ceres Subdivision, Carlobang 4 adj. lots - 2 stry. Resd'l. bldg. LA – 1,000 sqm. FA – 291.66 Min. bid P5,122,226.67
15. Rizal St., Balimbingan, Lumban Resd'l. bldg LA – 108 sqm. Min. bid P2,000,000.00

**Rizal**

16. Maria Venson St., Gloria Hgts. Antipolo LA – 230 sqm. Min. bid P1,250,000.00

**Quezon Province**

17. Rosal Extn. And Sta. Rita Sts. Manlag Subd., Brgy. Gulang Gulang, Lucena City 4 Adj. Lots w/split-level LA-545 Min. bid P4,800,000.00

**Nueva Ecija**

18. Paco Roman Extension, Padre Crisostomo, Cabanatuan City 2 Sty. 4-Door Apartment bldg. LA-610 sqm. FA-340.30 sqm. Min. bid P2,669,768.80
19. Barangay Valdefuente, N.E. 1 sty. LA-395 FA-126.30 Min. bid P1,934,750.00

**South Cotabato**

20. Dadiangas Hgts., Lagao, Gen Santos 2 Sty. LA-450 Min. bid P2,361,900.00

**Quezon City**

22. Happy Homes, Bahay Toro 2 sty. LA – 54 FA – 82.38 Min. bid P1,550,000.00
23. Villa Ortigas Townhomes I Pinagkaisahan, Santolan 2 Sty. LA-68.80 FA-93 sqm. Min. bid P4,800,000.00
24. Road 3, Project 6, Q.C. 3 Sty. 5BR/2TB/1garage LA – 94 sqm. FA – 238 sqm. Min. bid P4,000,000.00

**Baguio City**

25. Eagle Crest Villa,Bakakeng Rd.
LA-123.5 Min. bid P2,465,000
LA-129 Min. bid P2,575,000
LA-145.5 Min. bid P2,904,000
LA-150 Min. bid P2,640,000 (2)
LA-160 Min. bid P3,193,000

**Pangasinan**

26. Ivory Coast Townhomes, Bonuan Gueset, Dagupan City 2 Units at LA-60 FA-56.62/each Min. bid P720,000.00/each

***CONDOMINIUM***

**Manila**

27. Stanisco Towers, F. Agoncillo cor. Pedro Gil Sts. , Ermita 2 Comm'l. units (G/F & Mezz.) Floor Area – 614.33 sqm. Min. bid P16,500,000.00

**Pasig City**

28. Chateau Verde Condominium E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. FA-152.72 Min. bid P4,276,160.00

**Quezon City**

29. Anyat Mansion, Cubao
FA-33.37/ 1 Min. bid P834,250
FA-30.57/ S Min. bid P764,250
FA-28.79/ S Min. bid P719,750
FA-28.41/ S Min. bid P710,250
FA-28.47/ S Min. bid P711,750
FA-28.41/ S Min. bid P710,250
FA-33.37/ 1 Min. bid P834,250
FA-37.46/ 1 Min. bid P936,500
FA-28.79/ S Min. bid P710,250
FA-29.08/ S Min. bid P727,250
FA-28.47/ S Min. bid P711,750
FA-28.41/ S Min. bid P710,250
FA-29.01/ 1 Min. bid P725,250
FA-58.58/ 1 Min. bid P1,582,450
FA-56.82/ S Min. bid P1,420,500

***BUILDING***

**Muntinlupa**

30. Rizal Village, Brgy. Cupang Ind'l. w/4bldgs , 2 Shed type LA – 3,506 FA – 1,437 Min. bid P15,401,201.67
31. National Rd., Brgy. Bayanan 2 Sty. W/terrace LA-668 sqm. Min. bid P15,557,520
32. Agno St., Ayala Alabang Vill. 2 Sty. W/basement LA-675 Min. bid P26,100,000.00

**Pasig City**

33. Sixto Antonio Ave., Maybunga 1 Factory & 1 Office Bldg. LA-823 FA-549.08 (f) 168.02 (o) Min. bid P11,855,717.00

**Manila**

34. Del Pan Street, Binondo 5 Sty. Resd'l. Bldg. LA-161.69 Min. bid P23,000,000.00

**Quezon City**

35. Sauyo Road, Novaliches 2 Whse. Bldgs. LA-2,172 sqm. Min. bid P23,839,874
36. San Antonio cor. M.H. del Pilar San Francisco del Monte 4Sty Unfin. Condo bldg. LA389 sqm. Min. bid P9,496,616.00

**Valenzuela**

37. Maysan Road – 2 Sty. Com'l. LA- 1,385 FA- 545.99 Min. bid P12,873,581.00

**Bulacan**

38. B. Sapang Putol/San Ildefonso (Fiorenth Hosp)LA – 991 sqm Min. bid P5,900,000.00

**Nueva Ecija**

39. Balor Rd., Sangitan, Cabanatuan 2 Sty. Resd'l./Comm'l. LA-172 Min. bid P1,600,000.00

**Cavite**

40. Aguinaldo Hgwy. Niog, Bacoor 2 Sty. Comm'l. bldg. LA-2,746 Min. bid P71,700,000.00

**Bataan**

41. Ma. Fe Subd. Bo. Kaparangan, Orani w/bldg. LA-1,778 Min. bid P7,965,320

**Batangas**

42. Prov. Rd., Brgy. Tangob Padre Garcia Whse LA-7,007 FA-1,122 Min. bid P5,853,100.00

**Oriental Mindoro**

43. Tibag, Calapan Or. Mindoro Ind'l. lot w/bldg. LA-2,804 FA-825 Min. bid P5,562,663.33

**Nueva Ecija**

44. Parurnog St., Brgy. Sangitan 12BR Dormitory Bldg LA-587 Min. bid P2,669,768.80
45. Samson Subd. Brgy. Sumacab Whse. LA-240 FA-188 sqm. Min. bid P810,560.00

**Laguna**

46. Bo. Mayapa, Calamba LA-3,444 Min. bid P97,000,000.00

***LOTS***

**Manila**

47. P. Sanchez St., Sampaloc Prime Comm'l. lot LA-657 Min. bid P17,200,000.00

**Muntinlupa**

48. Susana Heights, Muntinlupa Resd'l. lot LA – 703 sqm. Min. bid P2,109,000.00

**Las Piñas City**

49. Valencia cor. Castellano Sts BF Homes Subd., Pamplona Min. bid P2,156,000.00

**Quezon City**

50. Araneta East Village, Q.C. Resd'l. lot LA – 609.1 sqm. Min. bid P9,000,000.00

**Marikina**

51. Sunburst St., SSS Village 6 Ind. titled lots LA-840 sqm. Min. bid P2,430,000.00

**Bulacan**

52. Metrogate Subd., Meycauayan Rawland LA – 12,319 sqm. Min. bid P10,000,000.00
53. Town & Country North Lots only LA-130 sqm. UP Min. bid P3,500/sq.m. H&L LA-130 sqm UP Min. bid P5,000-P6,000/sqm. UP

**Batangas**

54. Sabura Executive Vill, Maraouy Resd'l. lot LA – 300 sqm. Min. bid P2,420,113.34
55. Mt. Malarayat Golf & Country Club 18 Non-Fairway LA-501-1,477 Min. bid P4,000/sq.m. 15 Fairway LA-642-1,891 sqm. Min. bid P5,000/sq.m.
56. P. Torres & G. Lantay Sts., Lipa Comm'l. w/old structure LA-269 Min. bid P6,415,000.00

57. Brgy. Balintawak, Lipa Vacant lot LA – 600 sqm. Min. bid P3,800,000.00
58. City Park Subdivision, Lipa Resd'l. lot LA-960 sqm. Min. bid P1,600,000.00
59. Prov. Rd. Maraouy, Lipa 3 Comm'l. lots LA –300 Min. bid P6,900,000.00

**Cavite**

60. Coastal City, Timalan, Naic Resd'l. lot LA – 240 sqm. Min. bid P1,028,000.00
61. Metro South Subd., Buenavista Gen. Trias – 2 Resd'l. lots LA-266 Min. bid P541,000 LA-290 Min. bid P730,000
62. Mla. Southwoods, Carmona Resd'l. lot LA-645 sqm. Min. bid P5,818,000.00
63. The Garden Grove Subd., Dasmariñas LA- 72-258 Min. bid P3,600/sq.m.
64. Brgy. Bancal, Carmona Comm'l. lot LA-3,750 sqm. Min. bid P18,750,000.00
65. Town & Country, Dasmariñas Various Res. Lots LA-60-214 Min. bid P3,600/sq.m.

**Laguna**

66. Town & Country, Southville Ph. 7 Biñan LA- 108-261 sqm. Min. bid P3,500/sq.m.

**Rizal**

67. Town & Country Hills, Brgy. Inarawan, Antipolo City Resd'l. lot LA – 316 sqm. Min. bid P1,264,000.00
68. Arvesmar Village, Bo. San Isidro, Angono LA - 1,046 Min. bid P2,301,200.00
69. Victoria Valley Homes Subd. Mayamot, Antipolo City Resd'l. lot LA – 7,680 sqm. Min. bid P15,320,000.00
70. Barrington Place, Town & Country Estates Antipolo City LA-368-574 sqm./each Min. bid P5,800/sq.m.
71. Mission Hills, Antipolo City Santa Monica 1 – 1,592 sqm. Santa Monica 2 – 500 sqm. Santa Barbara 1 – 2,146 sqm. Min. bid P4,500/sq.m.

**Nueva Ecija**

72. Provincial Road, Barangay Bangad, Cabanatuan City Res./Agro-Ind'l. lot LA-14,871 Min. bid P8,203,000.00
73. Tierra Grande Homes, Cebu Cabanatuan LA – 73,726 Min. bid P27,464,000.00

**Cebu**

74. Brgy. Pitalo, San Fernando Vacant lot LA-130,606 sqm. Min. bid P500/sq.m.

**Iloilo**

75. Barrio Loong, Concepcion LA – 2,290 sq. m. LA – 6,957 sq. m. LA – 9,247 sq. m. Min. bid P200/sq. m.

**Negros Occidental**

76. Town & Country, Cambridge Bacolod Various Res. lots LA-130-200 sq.m. Min. bid P4,100/sq.m.
77. Eroreco Subd., Bacolod Various Residential lots LA-2,857 - 3,693 sq. m. Min. bid P2,820/sq. m.
78. Town & Country, Windsor Ph.1 Brgy. Mansilingan, Talisay Various Residential lots LA-240 – 573 sq.m. Min. bid P5,125/sq.m.

**Davao**

79. Emerald St., Ecoland Phase 2 Davao City Residential lot Lot area741 sq. m. Min. bid P1,482,000.00

***Misprints may occur please confirm by calling our hotlines.

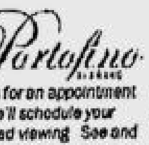
*.. properties are on "as-is-where-is" basis ** Property Forum may at anytime withdraw any of the properties.

### HOUSE & LOT

### HOUSE & LOT

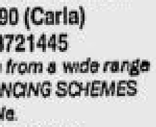
Brittany

LA POSADA Bay City
Sucat, Parañaque



LA MARFA
San Pedro, Laguna

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS
Antipolo



Portofino

Call us for an appointment and we'll schedule your escorted viewing. See and Appreciate. Call us now!
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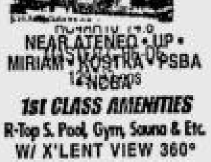
### CONDO/TWNHSE

### QUEZON CITY

One BEATRIZ Tower
1st Class COMM.-OFFICE RES'L CONDO
AURORA /LAUAN ST., PROJ. 3, Q.C.



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W/ X'LENT VIEW 360°
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### CONDO/TWNHSE

### QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA
Units for Sale

AVAIL BIG DISCOUNT!!!
HURRY, FEW UNITS LEFT!
INFRONT OF ATENEO
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## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### LOT

**PROVINCIAL**

**RUSH SALE**

- 11 hecs. land good for subdivision w/ complete approved subd. permits.

Overlooking the sea
LOCATION: Pangasinan

- 12 hecs. land surrounded by river and sea water (island), good for resort.

LOCATION: Pangasinan
Pls. contact Willy – (074) 443-4433
09192765807

### COMML/RESDL

**VARIOUS AREAS**

*Birmingham*

SUNRISE
San Mateo, Rizal
50m² up
nr Quezon City
2BR 1TB w/carport
**P950T - up**

HOMES
M.L. Quezon Ext.
Antipolo City
Two-storey Town house
**P1.05M - up**

PLACE
Brookside Hills,
Cainta, Rizal
Hse & Lot, 2 sty Twnhse
2BR, 2TB with carport
**P1.5M - up**

PANORAMA HILLS
Nr SSS, Antipolo
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Metro Manila
Only 20% DP Bal. 5 yrs.

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### HOUSE & LOT

**QUEZON CITY**

★ Ayala Hills QC ★
Adj Capitol Golf 470-700sqm @ P18500T & up Cash/Terms

★ Ferndale QC ★
Ayala Lots 204-200 @ P9700 & up. Hses @ P6.5M & up terms nr Gotesco QC

★ Ayala Grnfields★
ESTATE (CALAMBA)
In the foot hill pf Mt Makiling 600-1000m² @P8000/m² & up Pay 20% bal. 5-7 yrs Mo. Inst.

★ Tierra Pura★
HSE & LOT 5-6Bdr @ P8.5M-P12.5M with pool LOTS 550-670m² @ 8000-9500/m²

★ Don Jose Subd.★
420m² nr Park @P5,500/sqm T.V. BANEZ 9319117 / 9319160

New Mla w/Pool 24M 9460760

SALE #18 Adonis Acropolis Subdivision • Jim 636-7974

• Teachers Village •
18 Mahabagin St 913-2403

•UP VILL• 9219967/9210255

Xaviervilie2 16M 9460760

**CAVITE**

Bnew 2Stry BFHEVA 204LA 250FA 3BR+1 0917-8460139

LA MEDITERRANEA 2Stry 3Bdrm 1T&B LA110m² FA80m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

**BATANGAS**

AYALA PROPERTY AT STO TOMAS BATANGAS 364 SQM. HOUSE N LOT 2.5M NEG 0918-9171509

**LAGUNA**

ADELINA 1 3Bdrms LA183m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

STA. ROSA 2-storey 3BR 3T&B 210sq.m. Lot Call Roy 890-7777 M-F Cell 0917-5362741

**VARIOUS AREAS**

Hse/Lot w/s-pool 2164 sqm 222 Ortega-Zamora Sts. San Juan MM. Lot w/2stry bldg 624 sqm #613 Calderon St. Mandaluyong City back Honda Shaw. Lot 1015 sqm Don Jesus Blvd. Alabang Hills Muntinlupa
725-0492 • 0920-4059420

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### LOT

**PROVINCIAL**

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MAKATI**

BURGUNDY
CORPORATE TOWER
LEASE
TO OWN
UNITS
AVAILABLE!!!
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
near corner Ayala Ave.,
HURRY, A FEW UNITS LEFT!!!
894-4516/5048
0916-4599539/0917-8853661

**MAKATI**

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

Ayala 1.8M 30m² 744-3465

Ayala nr Airport 786T
10% DP P9T/MO studio - 3BR 20 mins fr Makati / Alabang Across SM Sucat 0917-8313225

Rockwell 2-3BR 2480859

SALCEDO VILL, Prince Twr Rush 1BR FF Park FA73m², Ed 687 1699 09178124693 Johnny 8171154

**MANILA**

SN ANDRES MLA
NR SSHIWAY Bnew
Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge/maid
P2.745M up 8903461 loc 34

**MANDALUYONG**

Studio Condo F/F Wack2 Twin Twrs ownr lvng wil negotiate Call 366-6146 • 0916-4531357 Vicky & Art

**PASIG**

ORTIGAS CENTER
RESIDENCIA 8888 Rush Sale 4BR FA 184m² FF Park ; 3BR FA 124 m² FF Park Ed-687-1699, 0917-8124693, Elmer 637-9121

ORTIGAS CTR 1BR FA46M² 1T&B Balcony S/Pool Gym Rush Sale 0916-5117293

**QUEZON CITY**

4br 3tb Kamuning 3714796

4BR, 4TB, Maid RM & PARKING P. TUAZON, CUBAO ALEX 0919 8464020

EASTWOOD BRANDNEW UPGRADED unit garden floor 2BR 2TB mds rm w/t&b parking w/pool & clubhouse access P5.5M 9299571 /9286816/0919-6084784

PROJ. 4 FA125.55m² P3.1M 2BR 2TB • 0917-3764608

RushlFernandina 88 100sqm 5MNeg 3br 2tb 0916-7069277

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.64M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

**VARIED AREAS**

★ AYALA Projects ★
• AYALA HILLSIDE (Q.C.)
Subdivision lots w/in golf course
• ONE ROXAS TRIANGLE
RFO, 5 YRS w/o interest
• ONE LEGAZPI PARK
Near Greenbelt & Glorietta
• AYALA GREENFIELD
Free Golf Share per Lot
• AYALA WESTGROVE
As low as 16T monthly
AYALA LAND SALES INC.
Pls. Call AGNES
0917-8435382 ★ 0917-8435355

### LOT

**ALABANG**

4 Sale Lot Alabang Hills 574sqm 11thousand per sqm Contact No. 770-4656/ (0916)6558120

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### LOT

**KALOOCAN**

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m² P3,703/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

**MANILA**

Samp 142m² no flod 3.4M 9218770

**MARIKINA**

Near Roosevelt College 286sqm T9330092

NEW MARIKINA 369sqm nr Municipio 4265255 / 4265256 09176003454 (Vicky)

**MUNTINLUPA**

4 Sale Lot Ruby Prk. Victoria Homes Tun. Munt. 267sqm Tel.8617668/09174309897

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P3,960/m² SOUTH GREENHEIGHTS VILL 300m² P3,833/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25/27

Sta.Maria Ind. B-Bayan,Taguig 2Adj Lots 1500sqm each • Call: 807-0284 •

**PARANAQUE**

MARIMA 7120229/70

**PASIG**

GREENPARK 211m² 645-8757

GREENWOODS 240m² 645-8757

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

**QUEZON CITY**

150SM SUBD LOT QC RFO LTD 100T DP 4183473/09165791807

Coml site alng Comnwealth nr Fairview 1140m² 951-4536

G'meadows Lot 0917-2482824

Kamuning Rd LA450 2871221 2813495 ; 09177954928 Uly

**RIZAL**

St. Andrew CAINTA 632-1739

**OTHER AREAS**

TAGAYTAY 80-120 sqm P4,288-6,432.00/mo. 2727814

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

**OTHER PROVINCIAL**

A 9.4 HAS FARM LOT ALONG THE NATIONAL ROAD IN ROSALES, PANGASINAN FOR P100/SQM(NEG) ALSO IDEAL FOR HOUSING CALL WILLY @ 0917-5264378

+IBA, ZAMBALES 10has 40M 500meters nr beach 09192221766

+IBA, ZAMBALES 10has 45M nr hway titled 0919-2221766

+ZAMBALES 18has 10M 100 mango trees 0919-2221766

Lt. PC VIII Marasbaras Tacloban Leyte Cnr. 434sqm Nr. GSIS 8617668/09174309897

**BATANGAS**

TAAL Blngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

**CAVITE**

Lots Fairway Subd. Dasma Cavite Cnr. 286sqm Tel.8617668/09174309897

TAGAYTAY SOUTHRIDGE NR. CLUBHOUSE @ 240m² TEL. 641-3812 • 641-3486

TRECE MARTIREZ
Nr Capitolyo Approved Residential Commercial 609-1079 (0919)6890267

**VARIED AREAS**

11027m² Antipolo P1,800/m² 2800m² Plo.Princesa P2,000/m² 1000m² Angat Bulacan P80/m² 913-4063 / 421-6241 / 813-0159

**PROVINCIAL**

TAGAYTAY COUNTRY HOMES 180m² P3,500/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

### MEMORIAL LOT

HEAVENS GATE P250T 645-8757

HERITAGE 7120038/0270/0229

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PLARIDEL,BULACAN 2HA OR 1501SQM W/MANGO TREES BENG 931-4466 or 912-4573

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

4.2 Hs. Bo. Pagolingin BTA LIPA City 0917-5287456 Piggery / Mangoes 929-4937

#ZAMBALES 17has 1800mango trees 26M DBO 0919-2221766

TAAL Blngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### COMMERCIAL

**QUEZON CITY**

Alng Cmowelt Rd.9218376

### HOUSE

**ALABANG**

FOR RENT
82 Tanauan Ayala Alab.
Lot. 475/Flr. 700sqm.
• Call MYRNA 893-1043 •

**MAKATI**

FORBES PARK FFurn 4BR 5T&B Lanai/Den Garden Pool Terrace T8107631/3 CP:09175201548

Magalanes HOUSE w/Pool 4br Den 2car Grge 724-2727

**MARIKINA**

INQUIRE from Lydia Permaline Homes Nangka, Marikina Tel# 941-5618

**PARANAQUE**

3BR 2CR 12T 5416226 DEL

5BR Hse 3CR Big Grg w/strng H2O at Multinational Vil. T822-5995 MRDeJesus

BLSubd. Pque Txt Marivic 0917-8920212 P10T

Bung 3BR 2TB Drvrs/Mds Qtr 777-9188 • 0917-9811513

**PASIG**

Bo. Kapilyo Hse for Rent 5BR,5TB,4 Car Garage 2 water tanks w/ pump 09164071180 8076644/45

**QUEZON CITY**

1BRTB NR U.P. 7.5T6819727

2BR 2bath rm w/ garage good loc 9123263 / 7210640

NEW MLA 5BR 360m² NEW 5.8M NEG HEMADY 4578041

**RIZAL**

Masinag, Bung Unfurn 3br 2tb Maids Qtr 777-9188 • 0917-9811513

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MAKATI**

BRAND NEW STUDIO
very clean w/security guard impressive lobby w/ elevator P7.5T no association dues no rent increase for 2 years 1672 Dian St Mktl nr Buendia - Call Rose 8440823 • 0916-6803715

**MANILA**

MARBELLA I STUD 8220354

ROYAL PLAZA TOWER nr Remedios Circle FFurn 54m² Res/Ofc P15T 09178127209

**PARANAQUE**

WESTMONT VIL SUCAT PQUE Studio furnish Txt Ms. Merle 0917-8300401 P13T

**QUEZON CITY**

Nr Munoz Market Edsa 3br2tb P13500/mo. 414-5596 Noth

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT
XAVIERVILLE I LOYOLA QC 5BR3TB 1mdsrm T6819336

White Plains 2BR T-9115178

**SAN JUAN**

Ghills Studio Ofc./Res. w/Tel F.Furn P15T/mo. • 456-1633

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### FOR LEASE

ADRIATICO/
MALATE
STUDIO TYPE
FULLY
FURNISHED
CALL:
FANNY
525-4644
0917-5300616

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**SAN JUAN**

Grnhills Stu 11T 929-0835

### APARTMENT

**MANILA**

2BR 1TB Forbes-Nagtahan Call 9119375 / 09189107008

2BRTB w/grge corner Metrica Fajardo Tel 740-1745 to 48

Apt 7841746/6662108

New U/D 2BR Mla 11T 7405825

**MANDALUYONG**

Rms Ladies 0919-6345577

**QUEZON CITY**

1br w garage 5T/mo 2456946

#5 D.Tuazon cor Ilustre P8T 9207101•0919-3652573

Cubao 2stry 2BR 1Bath P6.5T Call 439-6519 Vicky

### FOR LEASE

For Lease:7hectares fishpond Ideal for tilapia growing located at STA. RITA PAMPANGA, near national h-way P120,000/anum Contact Lolit Gonzales at 807-0013 CP#:0917-8119231

### ROOM & BOARD

LDY Near Wel Rtd. 1.8T 7405825

Magallanes Vill. 852-6918

New Ladies Dorm U-Belt Mls Accept Reviewees T-6810992

ROOM/Boarder 6775B Santuico Makati Tel#6934472

### BEDSPACE

Lady Nr Makati T#5639502

M/F Prof Cuenca PC 8315026

Resdn'l/Clean/Furnls/Male/ 2PerRm/SingleBd T897-3770

### BUSINESS RENTAL

Studio Mktl Prime Mktl Ave P15T/mo T8936923/3712173

Office Space for Rent
213 Mindanao Avenue QC
- 2nd Flr, area 500 sq meter
- Warehouse available area 1,000sq meter
- Free parking space
Look for Nina, Tel No. 455-8613 / 924-5962

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Compshp/ofis/clinic 7225119

CTYLND 10 AYALA MKTI 30m² RON 4459529 9.9T

FOR RENT
Makati Office/Warehouse
• Call MYRNA 893-1043 •

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

### COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

Ofc Apt 920 Lunamencias Mand 532-0466 532-3126

BAYVIEW Call Anna 4115027 /4153155 /3720670

ROCKWELL Call Tessie 4100201 / 4115627

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

### HOUSE & LOT

Ayala Alabang Nette 8093600

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**FORD**

99 FORD XP 4X4 BLACK Very Good Cndtn P1.150M ★ 0916-5570757 (Weekends) ★ 634-6941 (weekdays)

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**MITSUBISHI**

LANCER EL 93 F. Red FLD w/alarm 155T 0917-8350232

• SPACE WAGON 1996 • Green 300,000 1st Own 8216461 (0917)8138751

**SUZUKI**

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 4x4 2.5L V6 13K Kms Silver P995,000 •810-6563•

**TOYOTA**

00'Revo/DLX/440T neg4554873

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P800/L3 9136710/4333082

Revo 533-7213/09174442779

REVO w/driver 9272021

STAREX MB HIACE 8270605

URVAN MB CAR 9370271

### WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CAR LOAN

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262700

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6500140

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7220942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

PAY-OFF BANK BAL. 712-7988

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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PUGS WRINKLED 3725231

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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HRD Stf 09175047628 TRACY

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SR / JR Stylist w/ Exp. From Reputable Salon 645-2231

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Presentacion S. Victorio who died intestate was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc.#491 Page# 100 Book# 19 Series of 2002 before Notary Public Dolorsindo Paner of Manila City
(PDI-Dec.29,2002,Jan.5&12,2003)

### PERSONAL

FORTUNE TELLING 426-5021

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ARE YOU OPEN FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL MARKET Pls. Call: 0916-6561964

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## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

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# Exec lives up to two famous family names

ANTONIO Herbosa, Principal and Division Head for Corporate Finance at Punongbayan and Araullo (P&A), is no stranger to corporate movers and shakers. After a successful stint in investment banking, Herbosa has become one of the sharpest deal makers in the country, advising and structuring more than P19 billion in various corporate finance transactions, from tricky valuations, plain vanilla IPOs, to syndicated bond floats and multi-tasked M&A's.

He is P&A's lead partner in charge of the P40 Billion securitization and asset sale program of the Unified Home Lending Program (UHLP) receivables with the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. (NHMFC). His recent NHMFC project is said to be one of the largest corporate finance transactions in the Philippines.

Success had not only brought Herbosa professional recognition, but it had made him quite a catch at the peak of his bachelorhood. He was often featured in society columns even in those ubiquitous Q&A's, presenting him as one of Manila's eligible set. No cosmopolitan lady could snag his heart until, at 38, he said goodbye to unbridled freedom and married a simple, 27-year-old lady from the south. Today, Herbosa has completed his "triple X project", namely Xavier (3 years old), Xandro (1 year) and newly born Ximon.

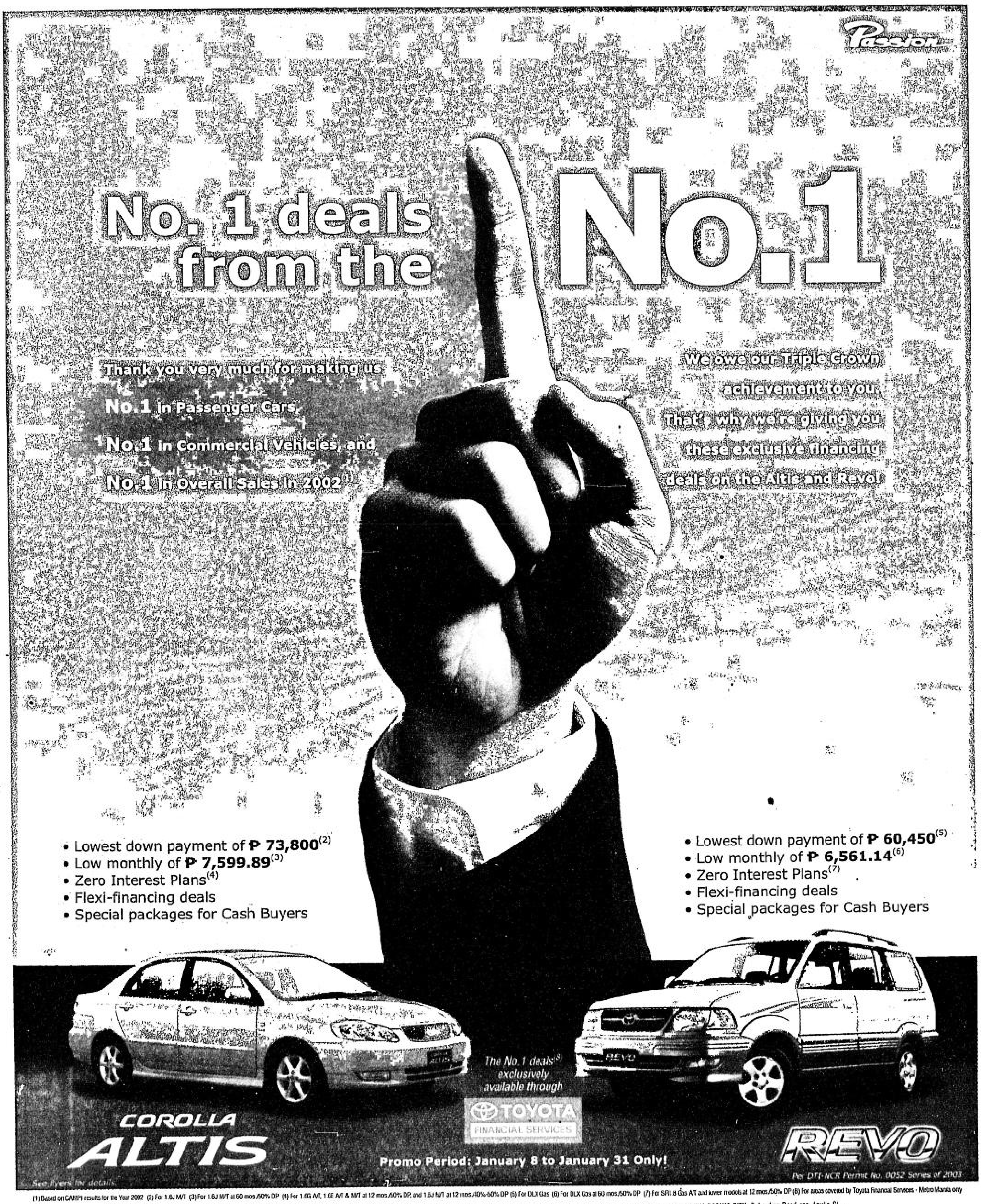
However, Herbosa sees none of his accomplishments measuring up to even a shadow of the achievements of his ancestors.

Herbosa is a descendant of the Rizals, the same family that bore the Philippines its national hero. Dr. Jose Rizal is actually Herbosa's great grand-uncle. His father, Enrique, was the grandson of Lucia Rizal, the fourth sister of the hero, who was married to Mariano Herbosa. It was Mariano's sister who helped sew the Philippine flag.

**LUNA on Rizal. Antonio Herbosa sits besides a reproduction of the painting that Juan Luna did on Jose Rizal. Herbosa's family had the original for years until it was eventually sold to a family friend.**

As if that was not enough, Herbosa's mother is a Limjap, a granddaughter of Mariano Limjap. Based on documents researched, Limjap was quite a tycoon in his time, with business interests in Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, Bank of Philippine Islands (Director from 1908 to 1913), San Miguel Corp. and Filipinas Compana de Seguros. Other in-

EXEC/B3



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Family Today LIFESTYLE
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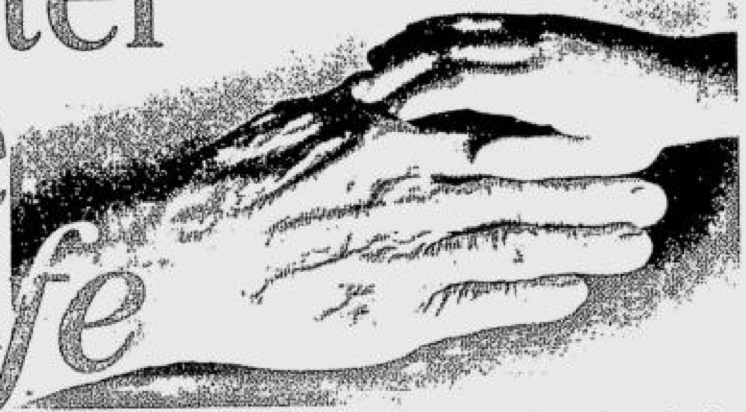
A HOSPICE is about caring, especially for those who can no longer care for themselves.

# A matter of life and life



THE HEART of the HOME concept of care is the patient's comfort and well-being in body,

By Rowena C. Burgos

MANAGING the end of life is not something that the Filipino health care system—or society as a whole—does well. Death, especially for those who are poor and on the social fringes, is often lonely, pain-filled, and without dignity.

How can primary care physicians make dying a little less painful? An approach to relieve the oppressiveness of dying is hospice care.

It was the Irish Sisters of Charity who originated the concept of hospice care in the 19th century. They dedicated themselves to the care of those dying in the streets of Dublin.

What hospice care seeks to restore is a concept that has almost vanished from contemporary life: a " good death," marked by dignity, tranquility, and comfort, taking place at home, surrounded by loving kin and friends.

The word "hospice" derives from the same linguistic root as "hospitality." It began as a medieval practice of providing shelter and aid to weary and ill travelers.

Now, it has developed into a large network of at-home and in-patient services to comfort the terminally ill and their families.

The most famous hospice today is St. Christopher's Hospice, a 55-bed facility founded by Dame Cicely Saunders in 1967 in West London. It is at St. Christopher's Hospice where most of the hospice leaders of the world trained.

> Hospice care for the terminally ill has caught on in the Philippines. Home Inc. provides that care in terms neither costly nor hi-tech

"Hospice isn't a place. It's a type of care that is compassionate and meets the medical, personal and spiritual needs. It has something to do with dignity," said Susan Reyes, managing director of Hospice of Manila Empowerment Inc. (HOME Inc.).

## Good death

Hospice proponents like HOME Inc. believe that a good death can be achieved in a manner that is neither costly nor particularly hi-tech. It can be attained by the employment of such simple measures as analgesia sufficient to quell the pain; control of distressing symptoms like dyspnea and nausea; and the provision for the comforts of home and the presence of loving family and friends.

A good death can also be achieved with the help of volunteers and the provision of spiritual support.

Hospice care doesn't end when the patient's life ends. It continues if only to support the bereaved family through the process of grief and mourning.

"Oftentimes, nothing much can be done for the patient at the hospital," Reyes said. "For example, if you're an elderly who got sick and is now undergoing treatment, you don't need to stay in a hospital. It gives family members comfort to see the patient at home. It's a general sense of well-being."

A hospice's goal is to help a patient for whom cure is no longer possible, to have maximum quality of life until she takes her last breath. Hospice, therefore, is about living rather than about dying.

"Doctors are pain-management doctors," Reyes said. "If you're a cancer patient, chances are you'll have pain. And we don't really believe in pain. How can you have a good quality of life if you're always in pain? This is the time in your life that you'd like to contemplate on what you've done and what you still want to do. You can't do that if you have pain because all your energy will be focused on the pain."

## Comfort care

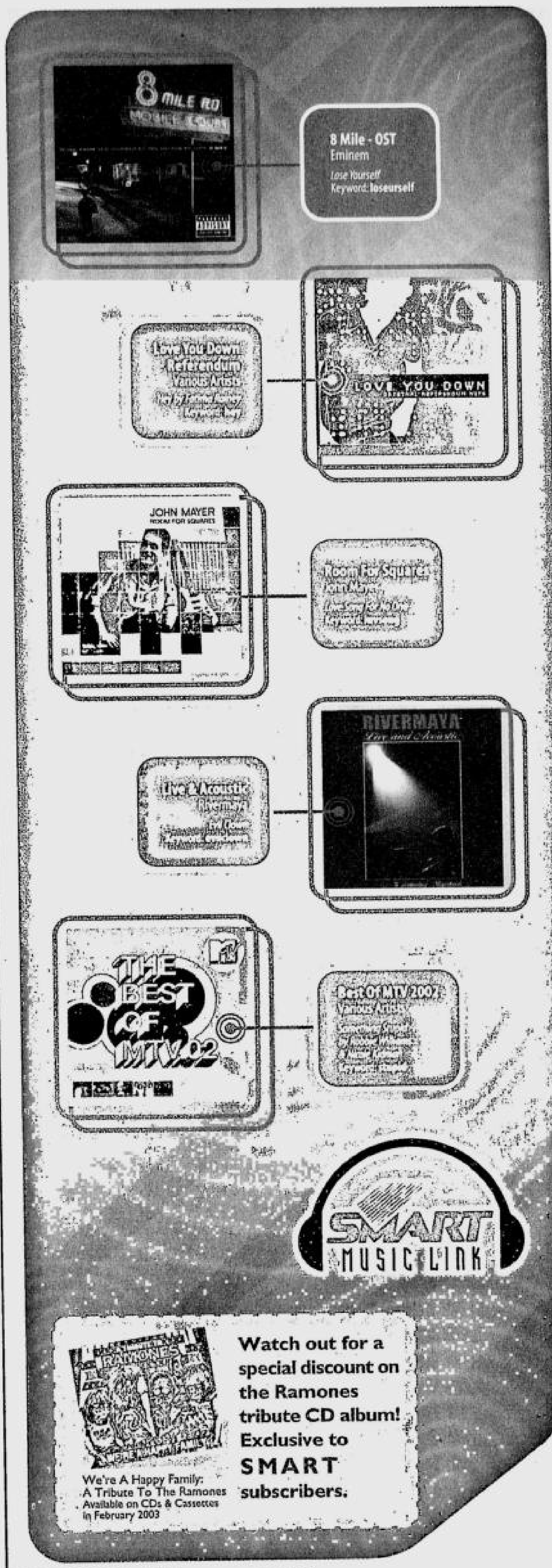
HOME Inc. offers services that ensure patients get medical attention in the comfort of their home. The organization can arrange for its doctors to make regular house calls. Its lab tech physicians can conduct medical tests in the patient's home. It can help source selected medical equipment needed by the patient. Members of the hospice team (medical doctors, nurses, counselors, clergy and social workers) also assist and advise primary caregivers. "The team can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Reyes said.

A MATTER/C3

DR. CARLOS DY, medical director of HOME Inc., with an elderly patient

DR. Josefina Magno (center, foreground) with the staff and directors of HOME Inc.

Simply hit after hit



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# Dreams Still Come True

For Ivan Jeffrey Baldomedo, it was as simple as an "inner urge." After seeing a television commercial for SMART's Amazing Dreams game show on ABS-CBN, Ivan just felt something call to him and get him to try out.

By simply keying WISH and sending to 304, Ivan played the Amazing Wish Trivia text game. Finding the questions challenging and fun to answer, Ivan just kept texting and answering the trivia quiz. Before he knew it, he was being called in as one of the qualifiers for the game show on TV.

There was a hitch though. Ivan was in pain after playing basketball the day before the TV taping. Still, he didn't want to pass up what he termed "a once in a lifetime experience". Once his lucky number was called, Ivan stood as one of the final four contestants. Ivan gives a lot of credit to his celebrity partners for helping him get through the tough obstacle course that followed. Those partners, heartthrobs Danilo Barrios and Camille Prats, made sure the 18-year old Business Administration student of the University of Santo Tomas emerged as sole survivor.

When all the dust had cleared, Ivan stood proud beside Amazing Dreams host Kris Aquino as the winner of P321,000.

*Representatives of Caritas Manila together with Amazing Dreams host Kris Aquino*

What makes this game show unique and stand up among all the rest is that SMART Communications matches a portion of the contestant's winnings and presents it on behalf of the contestant and SMART to different charitable institutions. In this instance, the beneficiary is Caritas Manila.

Caritas is the social services and development ministry of the Archdiocese of Manila. Its programs and services are directed towards the total human development of the marginalized people and the promotion of social justice in the light of the Catholic Church's social teachings.

Caritas views development as empowering the poor and giving priority to those no one else serves. It is concerned with addressing the present situation of disadvantaged groups such as urban poor women and children. At the same time, CM is involved in national and even global issues such as AIDS pandemic and that of the environment.

Ivan says that this charitable aspect of SMART's Amazing Dreams is also one of the things which attracted him to the game. Saying "it was an honor to represent a charitable institution like Caritas," there was even greater motivation for Ivan to play well.

Caritas Manila, then known as Catholic Charities, was founded on October 1953 by the late Archbishop of Manila Rufino Cardinal Santos. He conceived it to be "a social welfare program with the purpose of uplifting the spirit and soul of the unfortunate members of our community to assist them in all their needs and to bring the help of God in their miseries and distress."

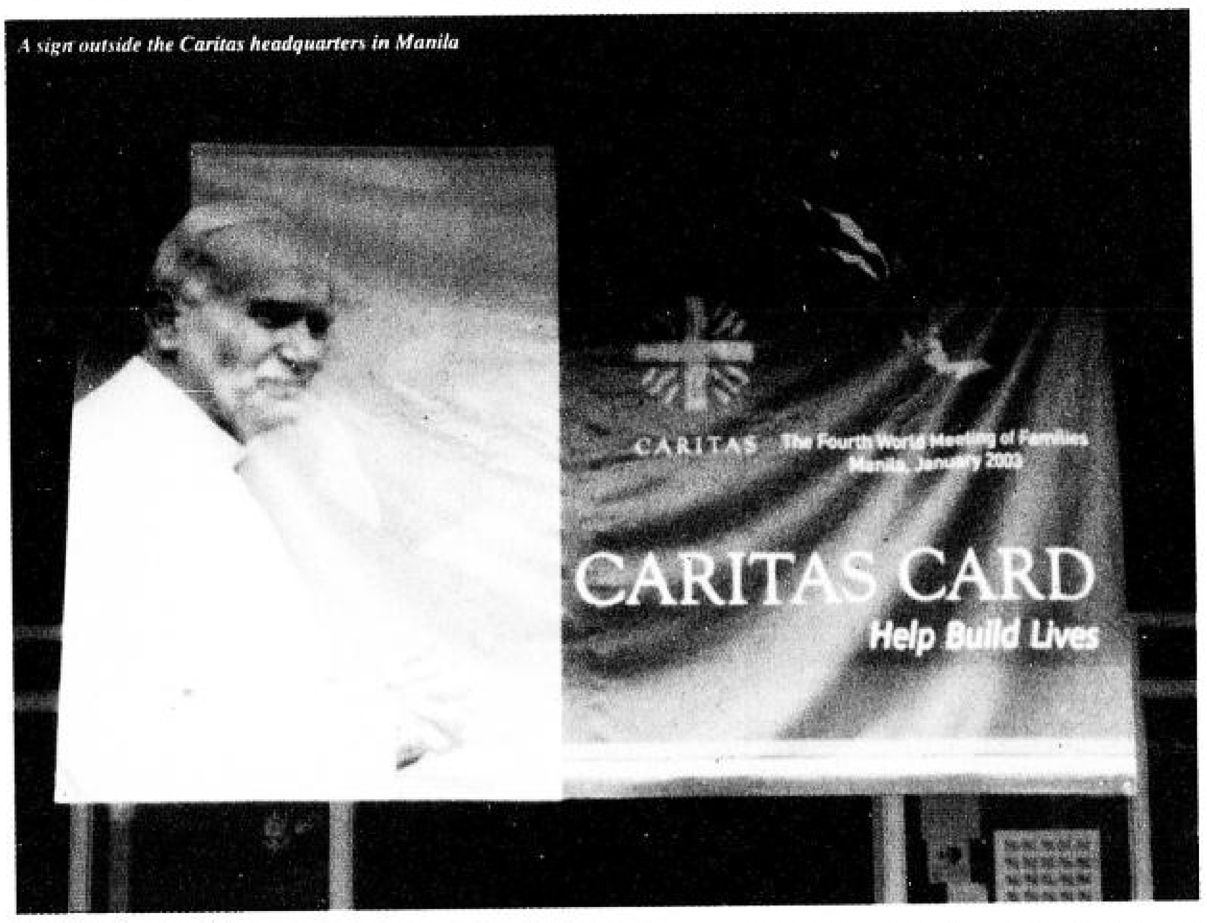
On the verge of celebrating its 50th Anniversary, Caritas Manila is just the latest among the beneficiaries of SMART's Amazing Dreams game show. From Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, the Bantay Bata Foundation, Golden Acres, to the PGH Give A Life charity, SMART's Amazing Dreams has helped to brighten the lives of our brothers and sisters who've been neglected by society.

"I've been involved with outreach programs before in school," says Ivan, "but never on this level." With his winning P160,000 for Caritas Manila, Ivan's own dream of donating to charity has been fulfilled. Consequently, Caritas' dream of improving the situation for all people under its wing was also fulfilled. According to Ms. Sheila Conti of Caritas, Ivan's winnings "will be a big help for their programs." They can also assist more scholars and push their charity projects, all thanks to Ivan and SMART.

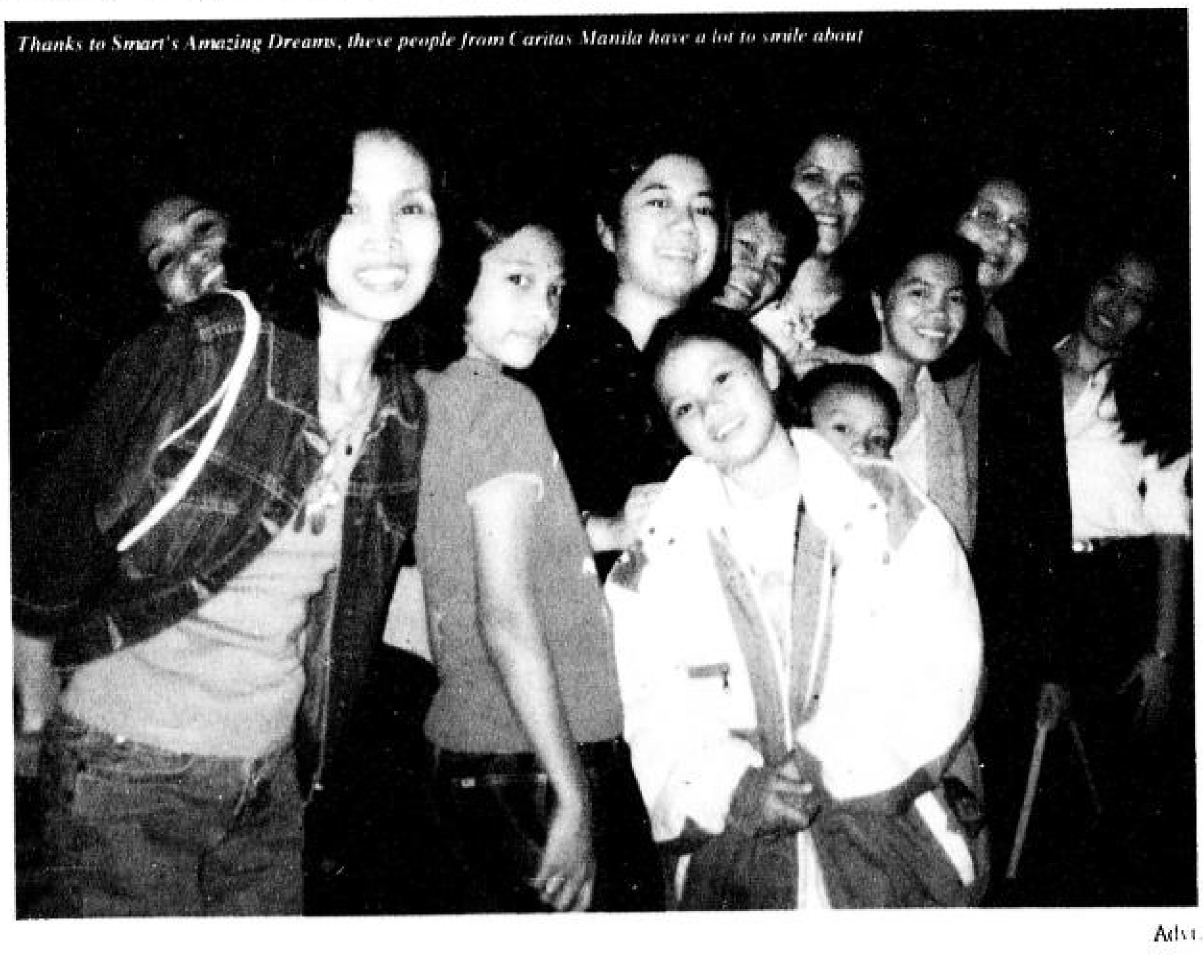
It doesn't take much to help out our less fortunate brothers and sisters. A simple greeting or a donation of food can go a long way in alleviating their situation. In the case of young Ivan Baldomedo, all it took was an urge to both compete as well as to fulfill his own charitable dream. Thanks to SMART's Amazing Dreams, Ivan didn't just see his dream come true, in his own way, he helped fulfill the dreams of others.

>> JASON S. INOCENCIO

*A sign outside the Caritas headquarters in Manila*



*Thanks to Smart's Amazing Dreams, these people from Caritas Manila have a lot to smile about*



*Amazing Dreams winner*
*Ivan Baldomedo*

Adv.

# Hope town for boys

From page C8

The special education program, which began at the Sisters of Mary compound in Santa Mesa back in 1985, has so far given 25,000 underprivileged young men and women four years of academic and vocational training that will hopefully give them a better chance at life.

"We are very thankful to the private donors who continue to place their faith in us and have supported us all these years," Sr. Elena Bellarmino, provicial superior of the Sisters of Mary, says.

The Boystown complex in Silang is huge and airy, with several buildings, numerous basketball courts and a brand new track oval where the 2,000 or so boys who live here can release their youthful energy after the day's lessons are done.

Sister Elena speaks with great motherly pride about how the boys thrive under the care of the sisters and their lay teachers. "The boys come from all over Luzon. Mainly from underprivileged families who can no longer afford to send them to high school," Sister Elena says.

## Search

"Our sisters go to different places in Luzon, and we are in contact with the parish priests and public school elementary principals who send us their endorsements and referrals. Our priority are those who come from families without fixed income and the boys need to have at least an average of 80 upon graduation from elementary."

The prospects, she says, are given an entrance exam that consists mainly of general information items.

The boys need to be at least 12 years old upon entrance. The cut-off age is 15 years old.

The search for these boys lasts from September to January and the official school year begins in April for the freshman class while the upperclassmen begin earlier, in February.

"More often than not," Sister Elena says, "a large number need to take remedial classes before the school year begins, so March is usually spent on taking make-up classes which are given by our teachers."

Sectioning is based on diagnostic exams, and there are 10 to 12 sections of 50 boys each per year level, depending on the number of students.

Sister Elena is happy that the drop-out rate is only at five percent, which translates to about 20 boys per class.

"Usually they drop out because their parents send for them since they have to help augment the family income," Sister Elena says. "It's also usually the eldest ones in the family that drop out *kasi kailangan na nilang tumulong sa pamilya.*"

The boys follow a rigid curriculum composed of technical subjects such as auto mechanics and driving, electronics, machine shop, drafting, auto-computer aided design programs, and computer classes.

"We follow the secondary curriculum as stipulated by the education department, and so the boys get the full academic load as well," Sister Elena says, "They have a full load and a long day. There is no time or desire for mischief."

The day begins at 6 a.m. followed by breakfast at 7 and morning classes from eight to 11:50. Then there is an hour's break for lunch followed by afternoon classes from 1 to 4:30 p.m. "The program already includes an hour of sports and two hours of workshop daily," the sister explains.

After classes, the boys either participate in clubs or play sports. Bedtime on schooldays is at 9:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. on weekends.

## Discipline

Discipline is never a problem at Boystown, as there is a "helping brothers system" in place. "The older ones help the younger ones adjust to the new environment, and the slow learners are matched with the more intelligent ones," Sister Elena explains. Perhaps it also helps that even in the rooming system, there is an element of brotherhood and care. The dormitories house 30 to 45 boys and the residents sleep on triple-deck beds.

"We call the dorms 'families,' and they were named after the saints," she says. They are grouped according to year level and room, with the same people from freshman to senior year. "Even after graduation, they still call each other—'*di ba* St. Michael family *ka*' or they say, '*di ba*, St. Paul family *tayo*?'" Sister Elena laughs.

After graduation, a small percentage go to college mainly on scholarships. The great majority however, work with huge automotive companies such as Ford, Toyota and Nissan.

"A lot of them already have jobs waiting for them," she says. Sister Elena says that this year, the Meralco Foundation gave 31 slots for scholarship. "We also go to companies and try to help find jobs for the boys. We are blessed because lately, some of the companies have been coming to us and offering jobs."

Not surprisingly, watching the boys on their graduation day was a heartwarming experience—seeing their faces filled with hope and the determination to succeed and observing how disciplined they were. Perhaps, there is hope for the country after all.

As one of the graduates put it perfectly in his speech that bright December morning, "Education empowers and does not discriminate. The world is a wealth of possibilities to anyone who is willing to strive."

*E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph*

**WITH HONORS.** Charlie Rufino hands over a special award.

DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman

**LAWYER** Adonis P. Sulit, alumnus

**EDUCATION EMPOWERS.** Special awardees from the graduating batch

# A matter . . .

From page C1

Located on the 7th floor of Builders Center, 170 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati, HOME Inc. was organized by Susan Reyes, Annette Sumulong, Tessie Escaler and Dr. Josefina Magno (one of the earliest advocates of hospice care in the US) last April. Since then, the group has aided about 15 patients in Metro Manila.

According to Reyes, hospice care focuses on the relief of pain, which includes not only physical pain but also social, psychological and spiritual pain, all of which have to be addressed competently and effectively.

Hospice care also seeks to relieve the patient's loneliness. This is done by involving family members and friends in the care of the loved one.

Hospice care also aids the patient who feels frustrated over her growing loss of control of her health as her sickness becomes graver. "In hospice care, the patient is allowed to make all the decisions, big or small, that he's capable of making," Reyes said. "He's made to feel that he is an individual who matters and not just a name on a chart."

"We hope that people will view HOME Inc. as a partner in helping the sick and his family live a good quality of life despite health challenges," Reyes added. "We believe that the patient should enjoy the remainder of his years in comfort and surrounded by the love and company of his family."

*Call Home Inc. at (0917) 873-HOME (4663) or e-mail homeinc@info.com.ph*

*E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph*

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**THE AUTHOR** with Baby Arenas

**VICKY** and Francisco Delgado

**CONNIE** and Oscar Lopez

# Gracious society hostess turns gracious 70

Text by Donnie C. Ramirez
Photos by Mike Alquinto

MELY Concepcion-Hechanova didn't want to celebrate her birthday this year, but her children wouldn't hear of it. The matriarch of the vast Concepcion industrial conglomerate—and as some business insiders say, the real power behind it—was enjoying the early winter weather in Vancouver, Canada when her children asked her to take the next plane to Manila because they had sent out invitations for her 70th birthday.

**CONTROVERSIAL** investment banker Ernest Escaler and journalist Glenn Gale

"I thought it's going to be a small affair because many of our friends were either out of town or vacationing abroad," Mely said. But as it turned out, there were more than enough guests to fill the huge NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio Global City.

In formal evening wear and priceless jewelry, Manila's elite brigade greeted the genial and gracious birthday celebrator.

Mely showed no trace of jetlag as she warmly greeted the guests in an eye-catching emerald gown designed by Inno Sotto. Hubby Paing, as dapper as when he was a hardcourt heartthrob playing for the UST Goldies in the old UAAP, cut a smart figure in a dark suit. Also in shades of green were their children—eldest daughter Renna (Mrs. Ed Angeles) who is a senior executive in the family-owned Concepcion Industries; only son Raffy and wife Gina (nee Gabaldon); Raissa (married to investment banker Ramon Posadas) who works at Citibank; and youngest daughter Riana whose hubby Ramon Trajano is an Ayala Healthcare exec.

**CARY** Rufino and Marixi Prieto with Mely and Paing Hechanova

**CORY** Alindogan

Widely regarded as one of Manila's best party hostesses, Mely, with friend Mary Prieto, personally taste-tested and approved the menu from caterer Via Mare. Another bosom chum Rica Gonzalez-Garcia spent hours with Toni Parsons to make sure that the décor would be something memorable.

The NBC Tent looked like a lush fruit orchard with hundreds of red apples tied on the branches of tall driftwoods. Repeating the emerald and crimson motif, the dance floor was strewn with petals of red roses.

Johnny Litton emceed the short program that started with a delightful video showing the high points of Mely's 70 years and ended with the cutting of the cake (by Juda Liu) with Mely and Paing surrounded by their children and her two brothers Joe Jr. and Ronnie (youngest brother Rene was reportedly out of the country).

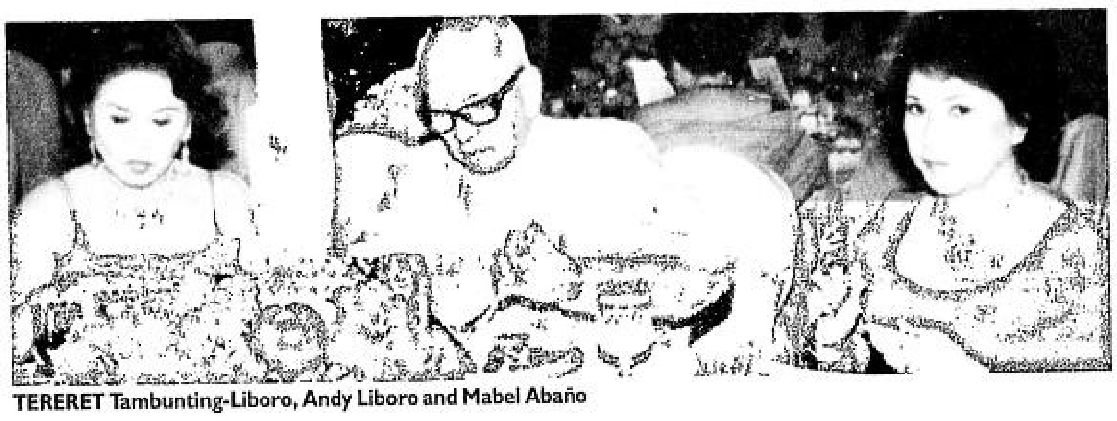
Ernie Pasamba provided dinner music and the popular Q&A Band played music for the dancing that followed the dinner.

In lieu of gifts, Mely's friends made donations for the PGH Pediatric Ward for underprivileged children.

The guest list was a formidable mix of tycoons (Benpres Holdings' Oscar Lopez with regal wife Connie, Rustan's Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco, Sr., ABS-CBN's Freddie Garcia); diplomats (Ambassador Jacky Poo of Singapore, Ambassador Theo Arnold of The Netherlands); high society glamour (Imelda O. Cojuangco, Menchu delas Alas-Concepcion, Josie Padilla-Rufino, Judy Roxas, Edith Nakpil-Rabat); Mely's colleagues from her numerous charity groups (sisters Nene Leonor, Letty Bonoan and Fe Rodriguez of FCCP, Sayaw Foundation's Helen Ong, Catholic Women's Club's Letty Syquia, Mellie Ablaza, Mabel Abaño and Pitang Tiongson); her longtime friends (Marilyn Santos-Velayo, INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto, Nenuca Blardony, Buda de Leon-Samson and Tere Rufino-Litton); and a sprinkling of government types (former trade secretary Jose Pardo, former Q.C. mayor Mel Mathay, Jr., former solicitor-general Frank Chavez).

Early the next morning, Mely and Paing, together with the whole family, jetted to Shanghai, China, for a well-deserved rest.

**AMBASSADOR** Bienvenido Tantoco Sr. with son-in-law Victor Valbuena


**TERERET** Tambunting-Liboro, Andy Liboro and Mabel Abaño

# Dancing by the Hudson; celebrating at Astoria

FAMILY and friends gathered for a dinner-dance party hosted by Antonio V. Martel Jr. and daughter Antonia on the eve of the 50th birthday of his wife, Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel, chair of Belco Marketing Inc. Native New Yorker and friend Josie Fernandez organized the affair at The Pavilion in the Martels' posh Edgewater, New Jersey address, Admiral's Walk, located by the Hudson River and overlooking the Manhattan Skyline.

The celebrator opened the dancing in her gold St. John attire. Guests included Juliet Lovina Ticzon, Portia T. Santos with sons Raphael and Gabriel, Roby Puyat Martel with wife Melissa Mercado and children Paolo, Nikki and Antonio III, Louie Concepcion Mercado, Willie and Josie Fernandez, Al del Rosario with wife Lorna and children Mae and Jules, Domeng Ramos with wife Dr. Linda Ramos, Toto Cian with wife Dr. Cora Cian, Henry and Emma Villareal with daughter Giselle, Carlos Canlas, Shirley Ibañez, Kyla Ibañez, Benny and Remy de Leon, Mike and Aster Arguelles, Caroline Atanacio, newly weds Glen and Shigeko Fernandez.

## Castañeda celebration

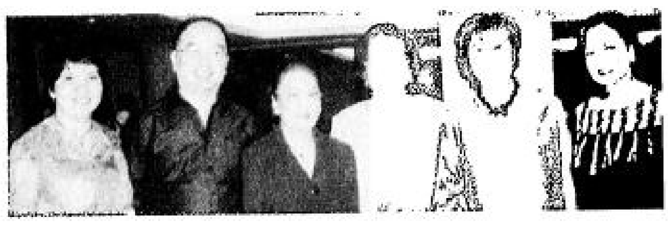
Meanwhile, Astoria Plaza, the residential suites on Escriva Drive in Ortigas, Pasig, hosted recently a buffet birthday party for Lilia Castañeda, mother of fashion designer Robert Castañeda.

The buffet was prepared by Astoria Plaza's chef, Lawrence R. Agliam. Pianist Noel Arag accompanied singer Teresa Garcia. Emcee Lito Garcia sang "Ikaw Lamang ang Mamahalin." Former First Lady Imelda Marcos sang "Gaano Ko Ikaw Kamahal" and Tess Reyes, wife of Secretary of National Defense Angelo Reyes, did "Sanay Wala Nang Wakas."

Other guests included Judge Precilla Mijares, Naty Rodriguez, Amparo Aspiras, Councilor Wilma Sarino, Linda Mabanta, Brenda Reyes, Len Ligot, Babot Oreta with Mario, Roi Philips, Larrie Silva, Nini Licaros, Susan Limjoco and friends of Robert from the God Loves Community—Councilor Bernadette Herera, Tonton Gutierrez and Glydel Mercado.

**IMELDA** Marcos and Lilia Castañeda

**TESS** Reyes, Robert Castañeda, Amparo Aspiras, Lilia Castañeda, Brenda Reyes and Nini Licaros



**THE MARTELS**, Nikki, Melissa, Belen, Antonia, Antonio Jr. and Anton, with Louie Mercado and Willie Fernandez at the Oak Room of The Plaza

# *GMA leads JDV birthday wellwishers*

TOP personalities in government, business, military and diplomacy trooped to Speaker Jose de Venecia's Dasmariñas home to greet him on his birthday last Christmas.

President Macapagal and the first family, including First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and daughter Luli Arroyo, led the wellwishers.

Among the guests were Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Senator Raul Roco. Former President Joseph Estrada greeted the celebrator by phone.

Gina de Venecia, the Speaker's wife, helped entertain the guests who included Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Senators Loren Legarda and Robert Barbers, Jose Almonte, publisher Eggie Apostol, Max Soliven and wife Preciosa, journalists Nelly Sindayen Domini Torrevillas and Belinda Cunanan, among others.

Other guests were Lita Gozon of the SM Mall chain, German Moreno, Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette, former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and top brass from the police and military led by Philippine National Police Director Hermogenes Ebdane, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Dionisio Santiago and Police Chief Superintendent Reynaldo Berroya.

The Speaker and his family went to Dagupan City for another celebration with his "kabaleyans."

**PRESIDENT** Macapagal-Arroyo

**GINA** de Venecia with her children Philip Cruz, Christopher de Venecia, KC de Venecia and Carissa Cruz

**BETH** Day Romulo and Teofisto Guingona greet Joe de Venecia

**GEN.** Joe Almonte, AFP Chief of Staff Dionisio Santiago, Speaker Joe de Venecia and PNP Director Hermogenes Ebdane

# Cebu Consular Corps holds Christmas fundraiser

**CEBU CEBU**

*Jaime Picornell*

THE CEBU chapter of the Consular Corps of the Philippines held a formal dinner at Europa restaurant on Ramos Street to celebrate the holidays and raise funds for an ongoing project.

The Corps helps the Cebu Society for Crippled Children, which runs a school for indigent disabled children inside the Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital.

Europa is also where Markus Stern, Honorary Consul of Switzerland, holds office. The chapter's assistant treasurer, Stern has offered Europa as the organization's clubhouse. No surprise then that the menu that evening was extra special, the wines superb, and the service impeccable.

The Consular Corps was led by its chair, Enrique Benedicto, Honorary Consul of Belgium. He was accompanied by his daughter Erilyn and niece Lillian, who represented her parents—the Philippine Ambassador to Canada Frank Benedicto and his wife, Leontina, Turkey's Honorary Consul General in Cebu.

Vice chair Jose Sala, Honorary Consul of Sweden, came with his wife, the former Susan Montenegro. At their table were Secretary Moya Jackson, Honorary Consul of the United Kingdom, Antony Jackson, and Mr. and Ms Louis Graham Ugarte (he is the Honorary Consul of Mexico).

The biggest group came from the consulate of the People's Republic of China, with Consul General Wu Lianqi, Consuls Wang Jilu and Lu Rui Xiang, and Vice Consul Liu Rui. Honorary Consul General of Austria Arcadio Alegrado came with his charming wife Marle Montalban Alegrado, and their daughter Julie, who has just been appointed Austria's Vice Consul in Cebu. Julie speaks fluent German, having studied in Vienna, and thus is a great asset to her dad.

The Department of Foreign Affairs Cebu office director Leon Rodeon Rojas sat with Canada's Honorary Consul Robert Lee and his wife Anna; Portugal's Honorary Consul Samuel Chioson, with his parents Dr. Francisco Jr. and Paz Chio; France's Honorary Consul Richard Forteau, with Loida Montesclaros; and the Slovak Republic's Honorary Consul, Antonio Chiu, with his pretty wife Nelly.

The United States consular agent, John Domingo, came, too. The next diplomatic gathering in Cebu would be to inaugurate his new office on the lower ground floor of the Waterfront (Cebu City) Hotel. American Ambassador Francis Ricciardone had visited the place, a noontime event attended by a cross-section of Cebu's business and government sectors. There'll be a grand opening some time this month, and Ambassador Ricciardone has promised to be back as he likes Cebu very much.

## British trade fair

The entertainment plaza of Ayala Center Cebu was filled with booths and people the first night of Best of British, a trade fair that focused on British products. Participating were the British Council, British Airways, Standard Chartered Bank, PruLife UK, Marks & Spencer, Body Shop, Unilever, Trade Partners UK, and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank (HSBC).

Cebu's beautiful First Lady, Margot Vargas Osmeña, cut the ceremonial ribbon, together with Mayor Tommy Osmeña. They were assisted by Eamonn Staunton, first Secretary (Commercial Affairs) of the British Embassy; Geoffrey Short, chair of the British Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines; and Moya Jackson, the British consul in Cebu.

Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama and Vice Governor John-John Osmeña were also there, hovering where the prettiest were gathered—at the British Airways booth. Sales manager Marissa Lerias Saavedra and marketing manager Natalie Puey flew in from Manila. From Cebu, there was the staff of SW International, BA's general sales agent: Janet Alfafara, Shelley Sanico, Emelee Lada, Kate Castro and Shirley Reyes.

Cameras were clicking at the HSBC booth as Margot Osmeña received a check for P250,000 and lots of books for the Cebu City Task Force Streetchildren, from the bank's senior vice president, James Benoit.

For three days, hundreds milled around the booths. The event was a big success, and that's because an excellent team from the British Embassy came to arrange everything—commercial officer Joanna Romero, assistants Mica Gievara and Stella Nacua, and the willowy Shiela Teodoro, press officer.

## Exotic fare

Mexican food can be as exotic as Asian or African food, everyone who went to the 10-day Mexican food festival at the Café Tartanilla of the Cebu Plaza Hotel found out. Two chefs from Mexico, Roberto Treves and Sergio Snyder, prepared the dishes and did more than just cook. They sang, played the tambourines and clicked castanets with infinite gusto.

The festival was opened by Mexican Consul General Juan Cerda Benitez and his wife, Adriana de Cerda. Assisting were Margot Osmeña, Mexico's Consul in Cebu Luisito Ugarte, the Cebu Piaza's acting GM Ernesto Quimba, PR manager Aissa de la Cruz, and executive chef Martin Prezwodnik.

Among the first nighters were Janet Ugarte, Evelyn Ugarte, DOT's regional director Dawn Roa, Marlinda Tan, Josephine Magsaysay, Mexican couple Mr. and Ms Michael Roman, and an entire Mexican family—Miguel Angel and Cristina Monreal with children Paloma, Maria, Josue and 2-month-old little Isaac.

THE BRITISH Embassy's First Secretary Eamonn Staunton, UK Consul in Cebu Moya Jackson and Antony Jackson

THE PEOPLE'S Republic of China Vice Consul Liu Rui, Consul Lu Rui Xiang, Consul General Wu Lianqi and Honorary Consul of Belgium Enrique Benedicto, chair of the Cebu chapter of the Consular Corps

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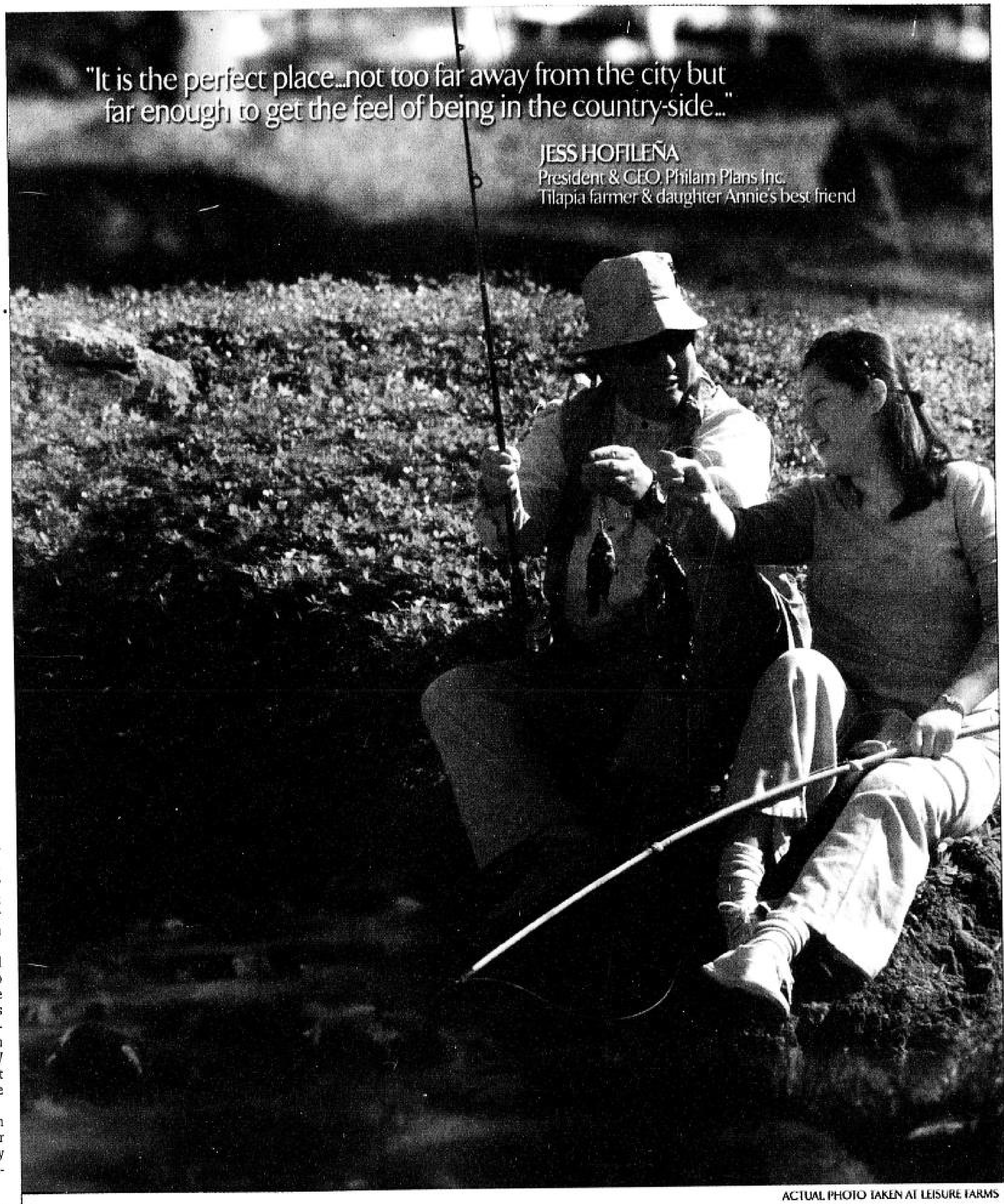
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JESS HOFILEÑA
President & CEO, Philam Plans Inc.
Tilapia farmer & daughter Annie's best friend

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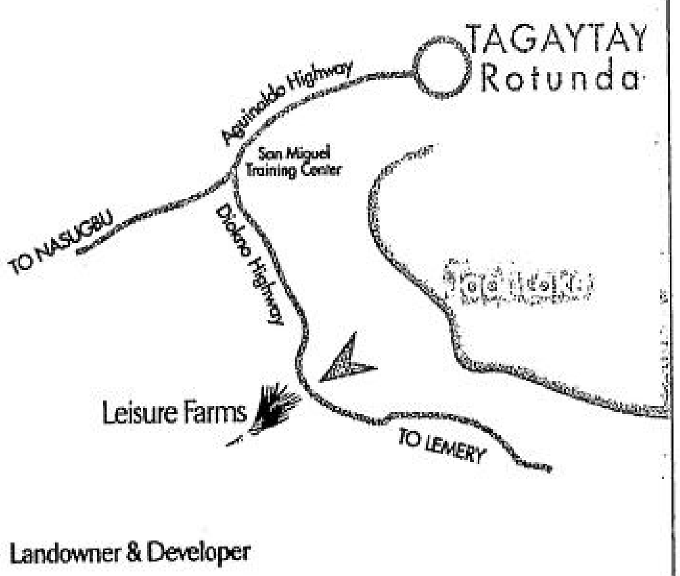

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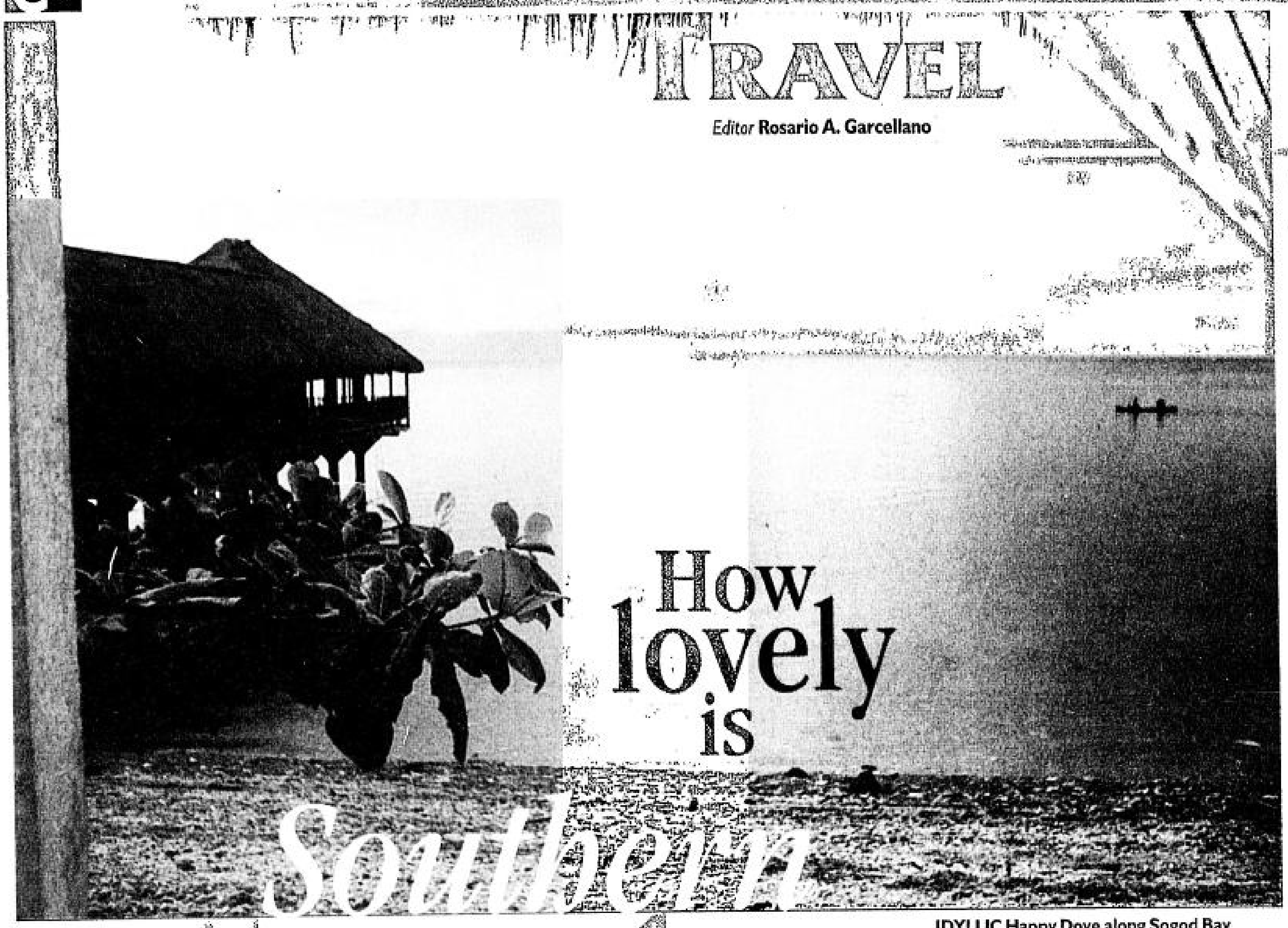
# TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano



# How lovely is Southern Leyte

IDYLLIC Happy Dove along Sogod Bay

Text and photos by Amadís Ma. Guerrero

LIMASAWA is the ecological showpiece of Southern Leyte.

In this island town, the records state, on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1521, the Portuguese explorer Fernando de Magallanes, flying the flag of Spain, led the first Mass to be celebrated in what was later named Filipinas, after the Spanish monarch Felipe el Segundo.

MAASIN'S Our Lady of the Assumption Cathedral

The Mass was said by Fr. Pedro de Valderrama, a 1950 Philippine Historical Committee marker notes. A modern National Shrine now stands on the site, and nearby are the 450 steps that lead to the hilltop First Cross monument.

Now, the people of Butuan City, Agusan del Norte, are contesting the claim that the First Mass was celebrated in Limasawa.

During a trip to Butuan, my host Edilberto Buiser, provincial officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, called my attention to an 1872 marker that pays tribute to Magellan and commemorates his celebration of the First Mass in the "pueblo" of Butuan on April 8, 1521.

To complicate matters, the people of Eastern Samar are claiming the same honor.

The first place in the Philippines where Magellan and his men landed was in Homonhon Island off Eastern Samar. So, its people ask, isn't it logical that the Spaniards would first celebrate Mass there, and not in Limasawa or Butuan Viejo?

But let the historians resolve this issue.

The PHC plaque in Limasawa further notes that the Rajahs Kolambu and Si-Agu were informed, through an interpreter, about the Mass to be celebrated by Father Del Valderrama. Then "the ships fired all their artillery in response to musket signal from the shore."

Inside the shrine are sculptural figures kneeling around the cross, including Magellan, the priest (who is standing), a Spanish soldier, and Rajah Kulambu and his wife. There are paintings of the Spanish fleet approaching the shore of Mazaua, the First Mass, the planting of the First Cross, and portraits of Magellan and the chronicler Antonio Pigafetta, who wrote "First Voyage Around the World." (Magellan's voyage, it will be recalled, proved that the earth was round.)

The entry point to Limasawa is Padre Burgos town, the island being 45 minutes away by outrigger boat.

As with almost every Philippine island, the beauty of Limasawa lies in its coastal areas. And a pumpboat ride around the island, courtesy of Limasawa Mayor Albert Esclamado, reveals rock formations that seem to have been there since the dawn of civilization, limestone cliffs, boulders, trees and foliage, and beach coves.

The brochures were right. Many areas of the island town remain pristine and beautiful. You can swim, snorkel, dive (it is a great diving site, according to British divers) and picnic here.

Limasawa can compare with the best of our islands, including Dinagat, Malapascua, Boracay, Syquijor, Siargao, Guimaras, Camiguin and Apo Reef, to name a few. For the pilgrim-traveler, the (contested) fact that it is the site of the First Mass comes across as an added attraction.

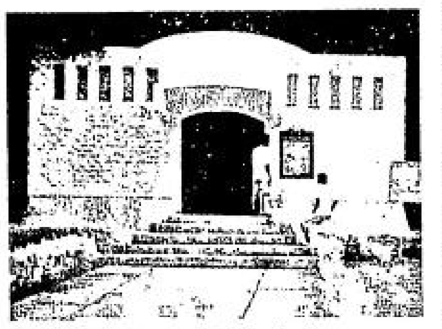
## 5 to go

With the recent trip to Southern Leyte, this "indefatigable traveler," as friend SV Epistola once referred to me, has visited 73 of our 78 provinces. There remain only five to be discovered: Batanes in Northern Luzon, Catanduanes in Bicol, and Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi in Mindanao.

My latest travel destination lies at the southern tip of Eastern Visayas and is separated from Caraga and Northern Mindanao by the Surigao Strait and Canigao Channel. Its capital city is Maasin, and its best-known ecodestination is Limasawa.

Buses from Metro Manila (with stations at Cubao and Pasay Rotonda) go all the way to Maasin, but the trip is tiring. So I took Super-Ferry 12 to Cebu, splashed around in its swimming pool, watched a basketball game between crew and passengers, took photos, and gawked at the southern isles.

At Cebu Port I boarded a SuperCat fast craft (courtesy of WG&A public relations manager Gina Virtusio) for a two-hour trip to Ormoc City in Leyte, where I was met by my tour guides, community development officer Cervando Acedo and the driver Leonardo. They were representatives of my host, DENR provincial officer Lito Godoy.



FIRST Mass National Shrine in Limasawa

On the DENR jeep we took about two hours and a half to get from Ormoc to Maasin, passing the smooth Pan-Philippine Highway and whizzing past coastal areas lined with beach resorts. The plants and trees were then refreshed by the rains, and we could see the mist-draped mountains in the distance.

Southern Leyte's ecotourism thrust is toward spelunking and diving, Gov. Rosette Yñiguez-Lerias informed me later during a courtesy call. "One hundred dolphins were spotted the other day!" she reported excitedly.

One of the dive spots is Liloan, facing the Pacific Ocean, where during the summer months whale sharks can be seen in big numbers.

"I have explored 10 caves but there are many more. One town, Bontoc, has three caves, one of which is quite famous here," said Yoyex Egido, a staff member of the Tourism Desk that will soon be upgraded to a Provincial Tourism Office.

"There's also Guinsohotan Falls and Cagnituan Cave in Maasin. We are visiting all these sites so we can document them in a brochure," added the youthful Provincial Board Member Jason Calva.

## Churches

Maasin has an impressive coral-stone cathedral built during the Spanish era.

A 1993 National Historical Institute plaque notes that the Jesuits set up a zone here that included a church, which was destroyed during a Moro attack. The Augustinians, who took over in 1768, built a new church three years later. But it suffered the same fate at the hands of the Mohammedans in 1784. A church of stone was then built, only to be destroyed—by what or by whom, we are not told.

What must be the present church was built in 1839, burned in 1882, and rebuilt. It became a cathedral in 1968, under the new Diocese of Maasin, dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption.

Another religious landmark—towering over the city and channel—is the monumental Mama Mary Shrine built on a hilltop. It is reached through a stairway with, mercifully, various stops and benches along the way.

My guides and I ascended as dusk descended and a full moon rose behind the pine trees. Spread out hundreds of feet below us were the lights of the city and the lamps of fishing boats at sea.

The following day, under the auspices of the DENR, we toured the coastline from Maasin in the southwest, passing through the southern tip facing Limasawa, to Bontoc in the northeast.

We stopped at the idyllic Happy Dove in Malitbog along Sogod Bay. At the former resort and now a training center for ecological purposes, we met a group of young volunteers mostly from the United Kingdom.

"We train divers from the provincial government to investigate the reefs and protect the corals," said Harry Goudge, 24, a science and scuba-dive teacher from Bristol, England. "The divers will then provide information to the government, which will use it to create management plans to improve sustainability, increase the catch, and manage the resources."

According to Goudge, Sogod Bay has "very deep waters—up to 700 meters—a lot of very good corals and lots of macro fish."

"I have seen whale sharks, whales, and dolphins," he said.

The 12-person volunteer team is headed by expedition chief Paula Brennan. They are staff members of the London-based Coral Cay Conservation, which, apart from the Philippines, has new expeditions in Fiji, Malaysia and Tobago. Their counterpart nongovernment organization in the country is the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc.

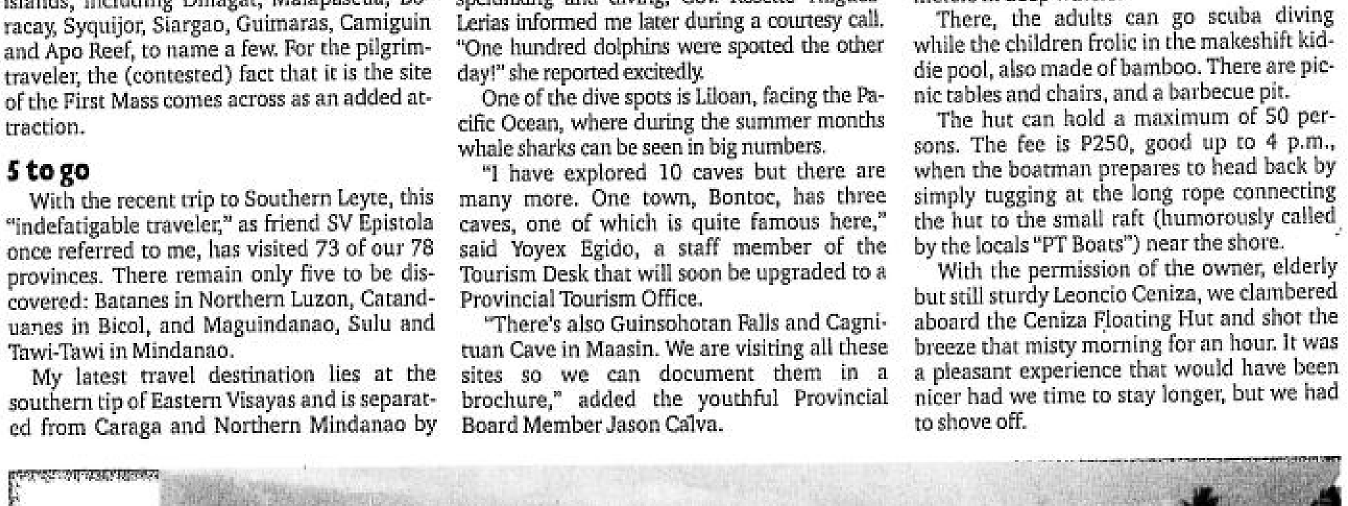
## Huts on the water

North of Malitbog is Bontoc, where a treat awaits foreign and domestic visitors in the form of beach craft moored along the bay. These are native-style huts, adorned with pennants, which can be towed up to 70-80 meters in deep waters.

There, the adults can go scuba diving while the children frolic in the makeshift kiddie pool, also made of bamboo. There are picnic tables and chairs, and a barbecue pit.

The hut can hold a maximum of 50 persons. The fee is P250, good up to 4 p.m., when the boatman prepares to head back by simply tugging at the long rope connecting the hut to the small raft (humorously called by the locals "PT Boats") near the shore.

With the permission of the owner, elderly but still sturdy Leoncio Ceniza, we clambered aboard the Ceniza Floating Hut and shot the breeze that misty morning for an hour. It was a pleasant experience that would have been nicer had we time to stay longer, but we had to shove off.



FLOATING huts in Bontoc

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# TravelBriefs

## New appointees

THE 5-STAR Pan Pacific Manila has announced new appointees to its team.

Jocelyn Barcelona is the new director of people innovation. Her expertise includes training and development, recruitment, organizational development, employee relations, compensation and benefits administration.

Roselyn Sabalburo is back with the hotel as room sales manager handling major corporate accounts. She has notched 10 years in the hospitality industry and has had stints in Asia, America and Australia.

Jay Mascariñas has handled top corporate rooms and banquet requirements for the past eight years. He is now assigned as the hotel's banquet sales manager.

Pan Pacific Manila is at M. Adriatico corner General Malvar streets in Malate, Manila. For inquiries, call (632) 536-0788, fax to (632) 536-6220 or e-mail reserve.mnl@panpacific. com.

## Donation

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has donated P5 million to the Bantay Edukasyon program, a community project for abused children spearheaded by Bantay Bata 163.

"We firmly believe that to ensure children a better future, they must have a chance to achieve their full potential. Our involvement with Bantay Edukasyon will help us carry on this mission through providing them with a good education," said SIA general manager David Lau.

The P5-million endowment will be spread over a six-year period, from the beginning of the school year 2003-2004. More than 100 abused children will enjoy the benefits of a complete basic education through this elementary school program.

SIA, which has been operating in the Philippines for 36 years, was named International Airline of the Year at the 2001 Kalakbay Awards for its contributions to Philippine tourism.

Accredited by the Department of Social Work and Development, Bantay Bata 163 is an initiative of the socio-civic arm of ABS-CBN and is dedicated to protecting the rights of children.

## Sales blitz

CATHAY Pacific Airways' sales and marketing team recently held a 3-day sales blitz promoting its six daily flights to Hong Kong.

The team, together with CX country manager Adrian Harley dressed as Santa Claus, performed in full costume and delighted travel agents and customers in Binondo, Ermita and Makati.

The six daily flights started on Jan. 2, with CX912 leaving Manila at 9 a.m. and CX913 departing Hong Kong at 7:40 p.m.

## Photo safari

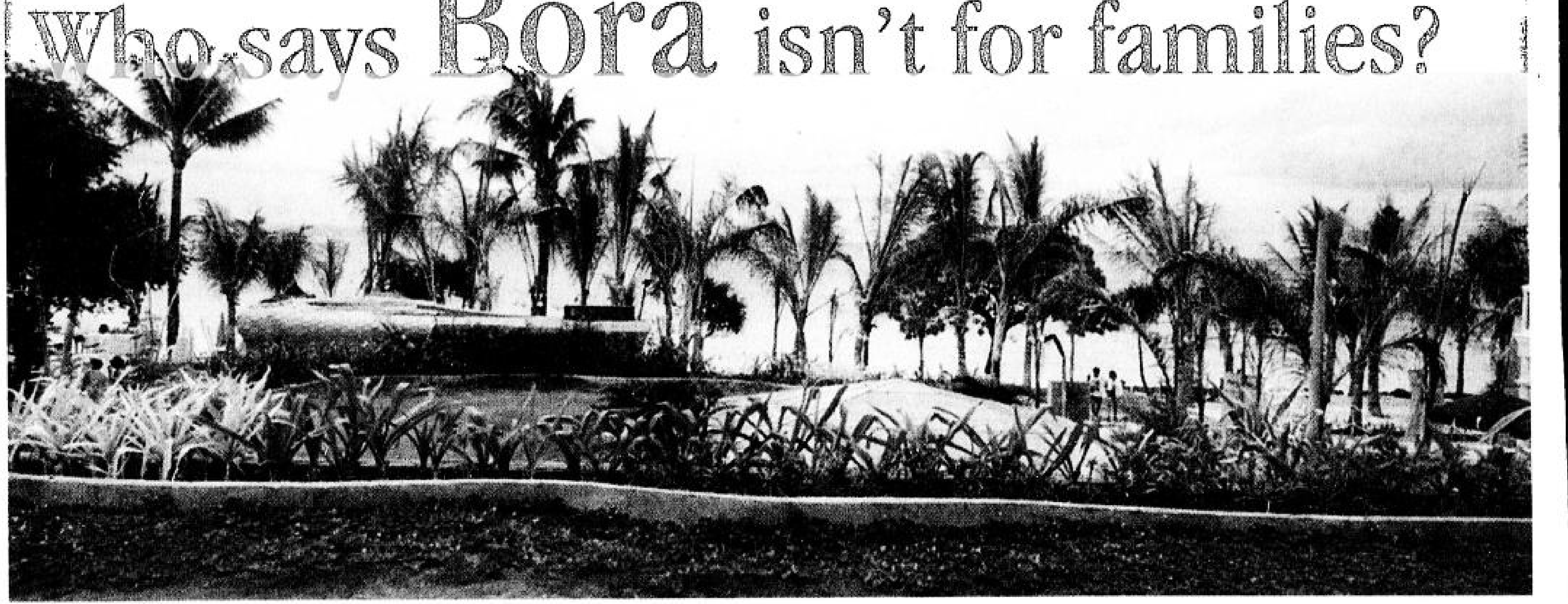
CORREGIDOR is the site of a photo safari dubbed "McGregor on the Rocks" and scheduled on Jan. 16.

Tourists who are photography buffs may join the photo safari and have the chance to see the world famous "Rock" and learn practical tips on photography. Don McGregor of Vancouver, British Columbia, will conduct a hands-on workshop in which he will share his expertise on environmental portraiture.

The workshop serves as the opening salvo of Photoworld Manila 2003, the biggest and longest running photography event in the country, to be held on Jan. 17-22 at the Glorietta in Makati City.

For inquiries, call the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc., c/o Amil de Castro or Beverly Estrosas, at 843-5341 or 813-7421.

# Who says Bora isn't for families?



ON top of the world: The Boracay Regency is the only hotel on the island with a real roof garden where guests can stroll.

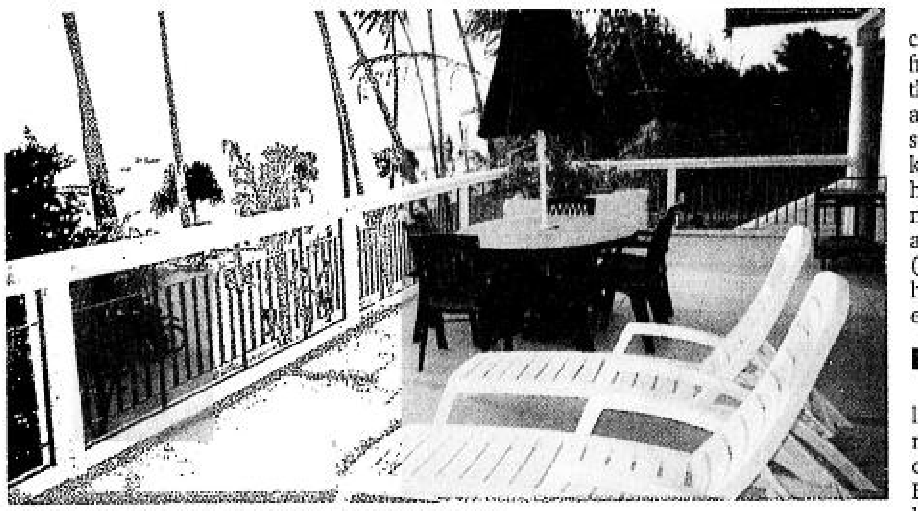
By Regine Roxas

THE MERE mention of "Boracay" sends waves of exhilaration to my entire family and this has been so since we discovered the island.

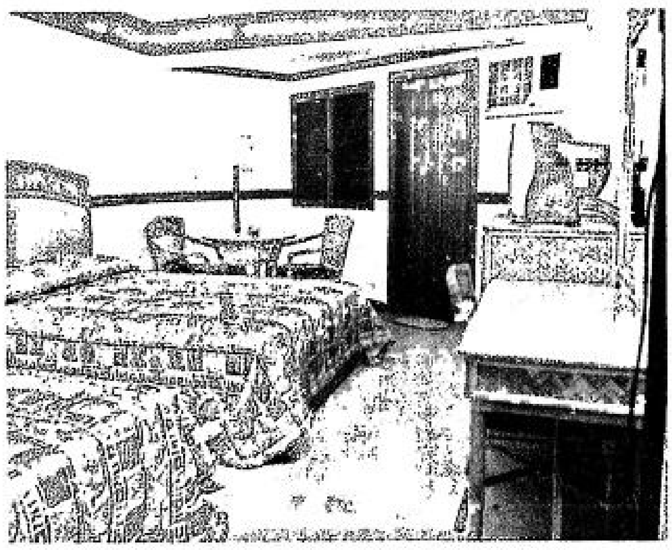
We discovered Bora kind of late. In the early years of our marriage, in between having babies (three in all), my husband and I never attempted to pack our bags either just by ourselves or with the kids for some R&R in this famous Philippine tourist spot. Instead, we vowed to visit the island as a family at a time when all of us could enjoy the experience.

## First time

That first time happened in November 2000, when our youngest turned 2. Since then, we have returned to Bora's sunny, white sand beaches once a year. We intend to make it a regular family destination for as long as the place is kept clean, peaceful and family-oriented.



GAZE lazily at the horizon on the beachfront balcony



PAMPER yourself with fully air-conditioned rooms, uniquely designed out of bamboo and rattan furniture

I know of some people who love Boracay during the Holy Week when the days and nights are bustling with visitors, mainly youngsters on summer break. We've heard from the locals (the tattoo artists, "talipapa" vendors, crepes chef) about how jam-packed the shore and the resorts are during this time. So I'm one of those people who don't wish to be in Boracay during Holy Week. Fortunately, so is my husband.

We prefer a time when there is lesser crowd, when we'd have the luxury of finding a good resort for accommodations, when we don't have to comb the beach for a place to eat. So we always time our visits during the semestral break. We have stayed in different resorts, all good in their own way incidentally. But for our most recent visit, the family stayed in one of the finest hotels on the island, the Boracay Regency.

## Service de luxe

Service is wonderful at the Regency. The hotel arranged for all our transfers coming and going. We were promptly greeted by a transport operator in Kalibo airport who had a van ready to bring us to Caticlan. Upon arriving in the Caticlan pier, we did not have to line up for tickets for the pump boat ride but were instead ushered immediately to the boat that ferried us to the hotel. Cold "welcome" drinks awaited us at the hotel beachfront where we alighted. The registration process was efficient and we were brought to our rooms in no time (to the delight of the kids who rushed changing into their swimsuits). We were informed upon check-in of the details of the boat pick-up on our departure date. The staff was courteous and the resident manager, pleasant and pretty.

There are other good things about the Boracay Regency—the location, the pristine beachfront, the rooms, the food, the pool, the gym and the nightlife. The hotel is in Station 2 which is about a 10-minute walk to the Talipapa at the south or to D'Mall at the north. The beachfront is kept clean at all times. The pool is kid-safe and has a lifeguard on duty. Fresh beach towels are made available everyday to the guests. Drinks and food may be served near the pool area (again, to the kids' delight). It's one of the few hotels on the island that has first-class gym equipment for cardio and strength training.

## Family fun

In the Regency's extension are fastfood outlets serving Korean, Filipino, Spanish and Chinese dishes. The hotel has an underground disco ("Wave") where live bands play nightly. Families and other big groups opt for the karaoke rooms for alternative entertainment. We tried their karaoke one night and the children had fun singing The Beatles' songs, like the "Nowhere Man" and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

So many things have been written and said about the attractions in Boracay—the sand, sea, scenery, shopping, artistry, handicrafts, food, water sports and the beach bodies. All these keep people coming all right.

In my case, I long for Boracay because of the opportunity it gives me to get away from the more mundane preoccupations in life. It helps me slow down and while the whole day away without feeling guilty for not "accomplishing" something in my "to do" list. It provides me a chance to indulge in a daily massage.

Most of all, it accords me the ultimate pleasure of just watching my children have fun. And each time I realize that my kids are having a ball not only because we are in Boracay but because they have my husband and me all to themselves.

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# The incredibly lengthening Pinoy Christmas

## A showcase of Philippine Christmas decor opens in Europe this month

By Alex Y. Vergara

HOLY Family garden set by Jovian Import-Export

TRUE to the country's much-vaunted tradition of celebrating the longest Christmas season in the world, 14 leading Filipino exporters will show the country's best Christmas décor later this month in Frankfurt, Germany.

Billed as "ChristmasWorld 2003," the international trade fair will run from Jan. 25 to 29 at the sprawling and multi-level Frankfurt Fair Grounds.

The Filipino contingent has reserved an entire floor all to itself to showcase the country's world-class products—from life-like Nativity figurines made of *sinamay* to candle holders shaped like mini Christmas trees and topiaries made of abaca and raffia.

This year's participating companies are Accent Pieces Exports, Alriver Export, Artlane Design International, Gaddang Philippines, Greenflex International, Idianale, Jovian Import-Export, Kalikasan Crafts, Klassy Kollektions, Manila Welcome Industrial, Pansy Accessories, Team International Concepts, Teaño International Export and Topmark Interiors and Novelties.

Organized by Messe Frankfurt, the annual fair is one of several trade events supported by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. The two other fairs with big Filipino presence are Ambiente and Tendence, venues for furniture, house ware and accent pieces.

After having spent almost the entire year designing and manufacturing Yuletide decorations, these companies are eagerly looking forward to showcasing their best pieces to the world. Wilbert Novero, ECCP manager for international trade fairs, believes such gatherings will help generate interest in the Philippines on several fronts.

"These exhibitors promote the country's image as a whole through their products," he says. "On an industry level, it [event] bolsters Filipinos' reputation as master craftsmen. On a company level, it's an ideal venue for participants to generate sales."

Close to 24,000 trade visitors reportedly visited and placed orders from 1,000 exhibitors last year. Around 60 percent of the buyers came from EU-member countries. A significant number of buyers also came from other parts of Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

ABACA fiber angel with gold seeds by Greenflex International

Despite the sheer volume of merchandise, says Novero, Philippine-made products have always won their fair share of admirers. He attributes this to Filipino artistry and the country's deep-seated Christian heritage.

"The Philippines is a predominantly Christian country," he adds. "Filipinos love to celebrate Christmas. Unlike many of the exhibitors from other countries, we know the season by heart."

As a brochure provided by ECCP aptly puts it: "Local ornaments and decorations transcend quality and style by exuding genuine warmth and fondness. Ceramics, porcelain, glass and many more cease to be materials as they pass through the Filipino artisans' expert yet devoted hands."

The ECCP has been at the forefront of assisting Filipino entrepreneurs break through the lucrative European market for several years now.

"We want to bolster the reputation of Filipinos as excellent craftsmen," says Novero. "Exposing the country's best products to the world is one sure way of doing this." Nobody probably knows how to celebrate Christmas better than the Filipino does.

For inquiries, call the ECCP at tel. 854-1324 or 759-6690

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# *Year of the Water Goat: Expect flashes of brilliance*

*Excerpted from "Foreseen and herd," Philippine Tatler, January 2003*

THE YEAR of the Water Goat is a time for reflection and contemplation. After the hectic, joyous and energetic Horse, the coming year provides us all with an opportunity to reflect and contemplate our past, our present and more importantly, our future.

The Goat represents one of the four Stars of Arts, which relate to the creative, artistic and some times temperamental forces that amaze and delight but at times challenge and confuse us all. Perhaps that is why there is such a fine line between genius and lunacy; the coming year is said to provide a platform for both. We can expect to see flashes of brilliance, as well as examples of what might have more in common with the behavior of a lunatic than an artist.

The Goat also represents one of the four tombs in Chinese astrology, and is often referred to as "the storer of wood." The wood element relates to the liver and also to anger, so we should all try to keep our heads this year, even if others around us are unable to do so. Leading by example is always good advice, but it is even more relevant for the coming year, so keep in mind the words of Confucius: "He who governs by example is like the Pole Star, which always keeps its place while other stars move around it."

The Goat is a gentle, peace-loving creature who appreciates beauty, elegance and tranquility and during the coming year these are the attributes that we should all try to aspire to. The Goat is also regarded as one of the "diplomats" of the Chinese zodiac, a characteristic which the world at large is badly in need of. If we all try to follow the Goat's example, then perhaps the turbulence and chaos that has been the hallmark of recent years will finally begin to subside.

The Horse is regarded as the most *yang* of all the animals while the Goat is considered to be the most *yin*, so the feminine principle will be the most dominant. Ladies will shine even more than usual and the year may well produce a batch of future female stars of screen, stage, music and the arts.

Lady politicians are also well placed to take the center-stage where they will get the opportunity to demonstrate their talents, and this is true of business and politics. So gentlemen, be warned: even if the lady is for spurning it certainly won't happen this year.

## The Goat

(1931-1943-1955-1967-1979-1991-2003)

Life just keeps getting better, at least as far as the Goat is concerned. Providing you don't waste the fine opportunities that will surely come your way, the coming year is one which can transform your life. We often make a leap forward in our lives and when we do, it's usually the result of developments that we have already been working on.

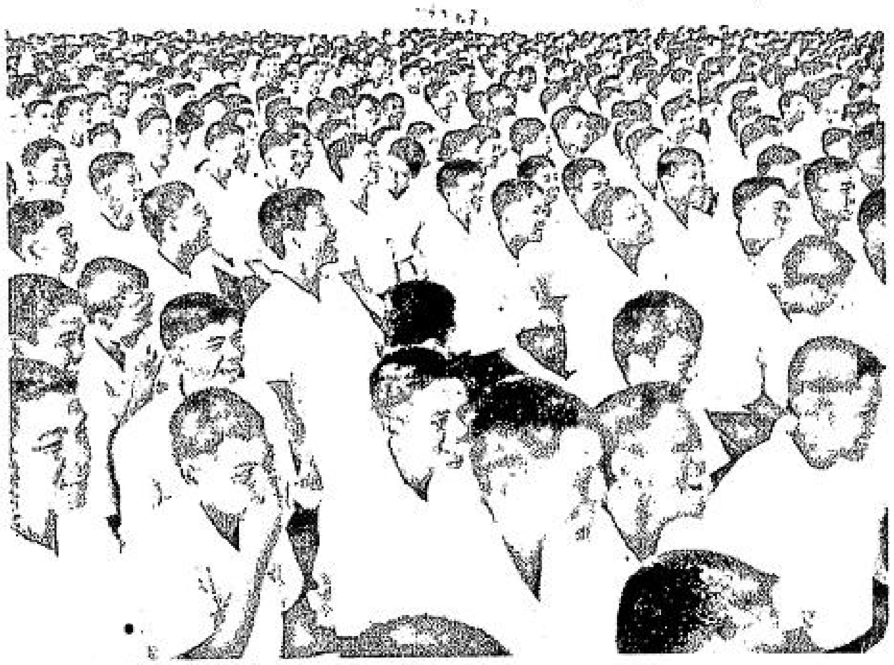
Success breeds success and the Goat should try to continue to exploit his or her good luck, not only to improve one's life on a daily basis, but also for the years ahead. This relates in particular to those things which are much more important than money, specifically life, love, family, relationships and careers. We all get the opportunity to move forward and make rapid progress, which influence the rest of our lives.

However, if we fail to make use of our good fortune, we have only ourselves to blame.

This is the Goat's year and it is the responsibility of the Goat to milk the coming 12 months for all they're worth. There are no excuses and there is nobody else to point to if you don't do just that. This is a year when you can really express yourself, show the world who you are, what you are and, above all, what you can achieve. You will also find an audience who is more than willing to soak up your performance. The stage is set, so go out there and dazzle them.

# Hope town for boys

**By Cathy Babao Guballa**
**Photos by Mike Alquinto**



**A BETTER** chance at life for 600 young men

RODEL hails from a small town in Camarines Sur, two hours away from Naga City. His father oversees and tills a small patch of land and his mother picks up cleaning jobs every now and then. All of 12 years, Rodel came to Manila four years ago to fulfill his dream of finishing high school.

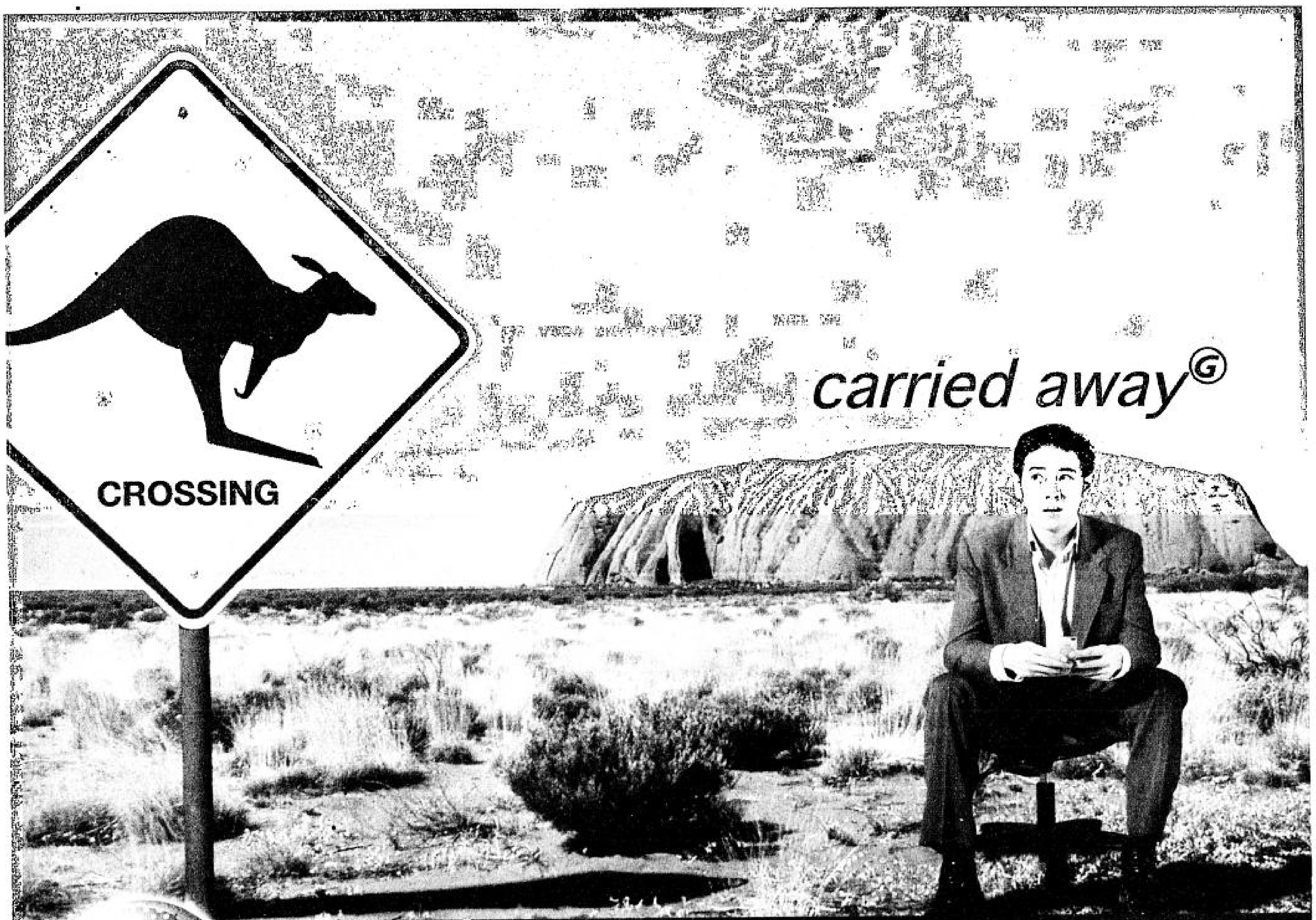
One windy morning last December, Rodel clutched at his diploma, grinning from ear to ear, his eyes filled with eager anticipation and a little anxiety for a better chance at life:

Rodel is but one of the 600 boys who were graduated by the Sisters of Mary at their Boystown complex in Silang, Cavite, last month.

The Sisters of Mary give poor boys a fighting chance to realize their dreams

HOPE/ C3

**SR. Teresita M. Prudente, S.M.**, principal of Sisters of Mary School



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

# My sisters' double wedding

MORRIS Calunsag and Ellen Dejaresco, and Mayen Dejaresco and Jeffrey Real

A question that had to be resolved when twins decided on a double wedding was how the ceremony was to be performed

**By Jay I. Dejaresco**
*Contributor*

DOUBLE weddings are rare events. Even rarer are twin sisters getting married at the same time.

Former Silliman University president and Church Pastor Dr. Proceso U. Udarbe said it was the first time in his 53 years as minister to officiate in a double wedding ceremony for twin sisters.

Dr. Udarbe solemnized the wedding with the present university pastor, Rev. Reuben D. Cedino.

The wedding of my twin sisters, Ellen and Marilen Icamen-Dejaresco, to their college boyfriends Morris Calunsag and Jeffrey Real, respectively, in December was also the first double wedding at the Silliman University Church.

For my parents—Ely and Marlen Dejaresco, editor-publisher of the Negros Chronicle—who had to "give away" their daughters at the same time, it was a double whammy.

Ellen and Mayen were the two kids whose voices could be heard reading Bible verses every night at 10 and 11 p.m over dyEM FM, Energy FM. The evening Bible readings were produced by my parents back in the '80s when the two were only eight years old. Only God knows how many lives they touched with their innocent voices.

The Dejaresco twins are dyed-in-the-wool Sillimanians—from prep school until they finished college two years ago. Ellen works at the Philippine Veterans Bank branch in Dumaguete City while the more enterprising Mayen manages the Telecash money transfer business and the Angels Wings Tours and Travel branch in Dumaguete City.

Morris, Ellen's husband, has a business degree from Silliman and now works as a Mitsubishi sales executive in Butuan City. He is the son of Philip Calunsag, the community and environments officer of Agusan del Sur, and Rosa Calunsag.

Jeffrey, Mayen's husband, is a licensed physical therapist who graduated from Velez College in Cebu City. He comes from Tagbilaran City, the hometown of the large Dejaresco clan. He is the son of Peregrino (an engineer) and Teresita Real, who are based in Saudi Arabia.

## Surfing for answers

A question that had to be resolved about a double wedding was how it was performed.

By surfing the Net we got advice from persons who had organized double weddings. There were even personal accounts by brides in some of those ceremonies.

Double weddings turned out to be more or less free-for-all rituals. They were perfectly legal, as long as there were two grooms and two brides. No such thing as sharing a spouse.

Having a double wedding is cheaper than holding two separate ceremonies. For example, the guest list is immediately cut by half since some visitors are in both couples' lists. Only one venue is used both for the ceremony and reception. The couples can even share just one wedding cake.

I insisted, however, that each couple should have their own cameraman to record the event for posterity.

One major disadvantage of this arrangement is that the brides, usually the stars of weddings, have to share the spotlight. But my sisters, whom I've always called my little twin stars, had no problem sharing the limelight.

## More problems

There were logistical problems as well, such as common sponsors. How would they fit in a single ritual? What would be the physical arrangements during the ceremony?

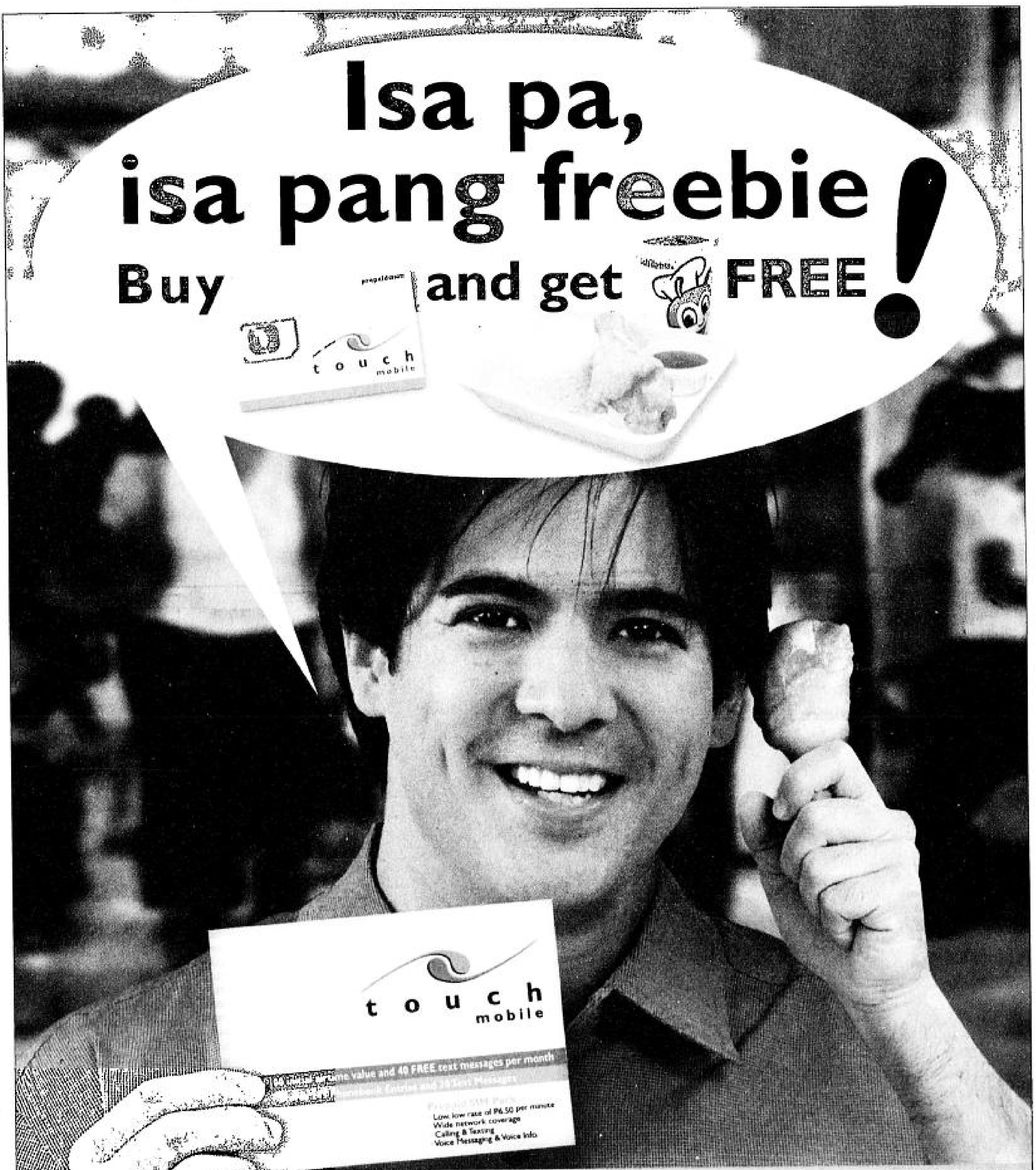
How should the father of the brides march down the aisle with a daughter on each side? Or should he escort one bride first, then walk back for the other?

In my sisters' case, Ellen, the "elder" twin, walked down the aisle first and was met by my father who gave her hand to Morris. After Ellen and Morris were settled, my father fetched Mayen.

The Internet articles warned about numerous other problems like positioning each couple's attendants and secondary sponsors, such as groomsmen, bridesmaids, ring bearers, flower girls and coin bearers.

After this experience, I concluded that a double wedding would need an open-mind and a willingness to compromise.

Otherwise, couples can get married the traditional way—one bride and one groom at a time—to ensure that they are the only "stars" on this important event in their lives.



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# Suspected of long-distance husband-grabbing

**LIVE AND LET LIVE**

*Tita Dulce*

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My ex-boyfriend's wife called me last night and told me in a diplomatic way to stop calling her husband. Both of them are there in the Philippines, while I am here in the US with my husband and child. She was my high school classmate, but I was his girlfriend before her. They've been married 10 years now, and have two kids.

I told her that my calls were without malice, and I apologized if I offended her. I assured her that I was the least of her worries. Apparently, her husband had extramarital affairs and she felt the need to confront all the women linked to her husband, even me—13,000 miles away.

She and I went to an exclusive girls' school and had a conservative upbringing, but I shed much of the (old) attitude since I moved to the US. I told her that since she and I were classmates, and since her husband was my ex and happened to be one of my closest male friends, then perhaps my friendship with him shouldn't be a big deal.

After that call, I felt that I was too kind in my apologies. Don't I have the right, as a friend, to communicate with my ex despite our being both married? Is it wrong to befriend an ex?

EX-LOVER

No, it's not wrong to befriend an ex. And, yes, you have that right. But since the wife has let you know about their problem, it is best that you exercise discretion.

What probably stung you was that the wife's call implied that you had chucked your morals and gone husband-grabbing. Anyone in your place would find that insulting.

The fact, however, is, if her story is true about his womanizing, it is she who has been insulted the most. That implies, correctly or erroneously, that she has been deficient as a wife. That's a much bigger insult than the one you got from her. And when she called you, who are too far to be a real threat, she insulted herself further by showing how poorly she was thinking in the midst of her marital crisis.

But crises do that—they cloud our minds, make us strike at shadows—so she should be forgiven for that phone call. She did not intend to malign you. She was only trying to save her marriage.

Your Dec. 29 column, "He wants to tell her he loves her," was somewhat similar to my case. I fell for an officemate who showed signs that she liked me. Those around us apparently also noticed, and the whole company, including our boss, seemed very supportive and tried to match the two of us.

I hesitated to court her because some of my colleagues and I found her working relationship with our boss too close. Then one day I discovered that they were actually having an affair. I never told anyone about this, though. I personally knew his wife and kids and considered them friends.

Several months ago, I moved to another company. However, a thought kept bugging me: Did she have an affair with our boss because I did not court her, or was she just flirting with me? Should I tell the girl or my former boss about my feelings and what I know?

DAVID

Often, extramarital affairs have been going on for quite a while before they are discovered. So, it's quite probable that she and your boss were only using you as a red herring. They created the impression that she was interested in you so their close "working relationship" wouldn't arouse suspicion. And you would have helped if you courted her and she accepted your proposal.

So don't feel too bad about not revealing your feelings. You actually saved yourself from being the office's laughing stock.

As to confronting them about the affair, be sure you have very strong evidence. Otherwise, they could sue you for slander. The way things are, only his wife could act on the basis of mere suspicion or info from a whistleblower. I would hope, though, that the whistleblower would take care that the "rumor" was not traced back to him.

*E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or to the PDI office*

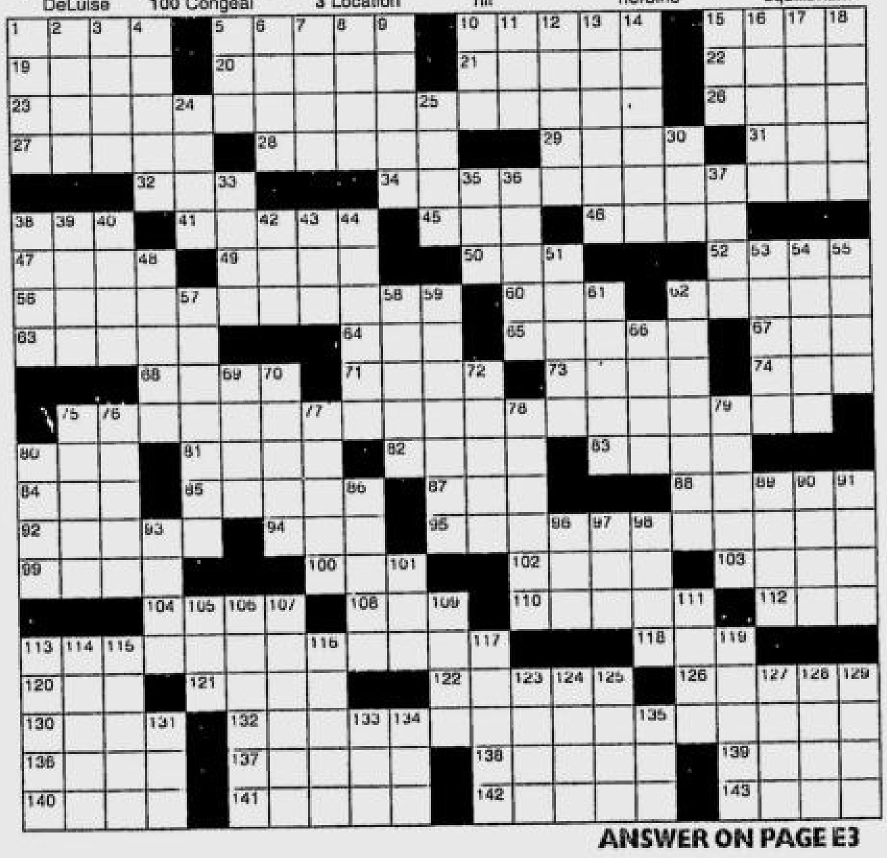
## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

### LOGIC

ACROSS
1 Deprivation
5 Tours topper
10 Turkish title
15 They squeak for themselves
19 "Carmen" highlight
20 Absinthe ingredient
21 Parcel out
22 Oklahoma city
23 Romance?
26 Stubbs or Strauss
27 Sound from 1 Down
28 Dutch artist
29 Scheme
31 Cavity
32 Eggy beverage
34 Count the fish?
38 Make believe
41 Scandinavian
45 Novelist Radcliffe
46 Prepare prunes
47 Some underwear
49 Coat material
50 Comic DeLuise
52 Marion of "Happy Days"
56 Stifle Dad?
60 Steak trimmings
62 Graceful girl
63 Clean the sink
64 GI's address
65 Straight from the garden
67 Historical period
68 Khartoum's river
71 Likable Lee
73 "Dies —"
74 Prepare to shoot
75 Write a novel?
80 Pantry item
81 Talbot or Naldi
82 Part of MIT
83 Concerning
84 Furrow
85 Statistical focus
87 Long or Peeples
88 Chew the scenery
92 Monroe's successor
94 Go downhill fast
95 Recess?
99 Lurid Lugosi
100 Congeal
102 Cheeseboard choice
103 Munich mister
104 Incites Rover
108 Vapor
110 Cavalry weapon
112 "Well, I'll be!"
113 Hire a caterer?
118 Wordless greeting
120 Literary collection
121 Actress Merrill
122 Metrical feet
126 Declaim
130 Actor Arnaz
132 Improve?
136 Trot or gallop
137 Mountain nymph
138 "— Gay"
139 Puppeteer Tony
140 In addition
141 Mitigated
142 Widow's inheritance
143 Collar feature

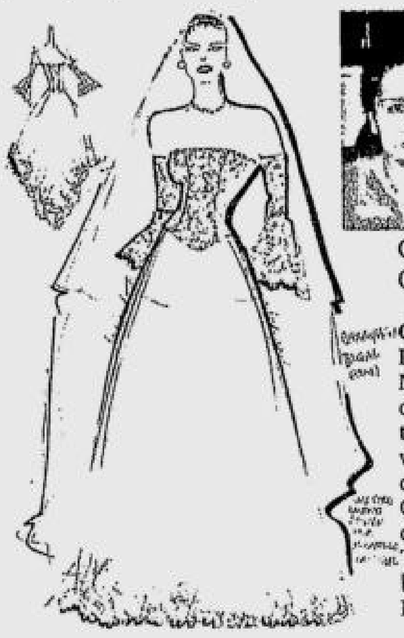
DOWN
1 It becomes ewe?
2 College exam
3 Location
4 Lucifer
5 Candy quantity
6 Adam's grandson
7 Fissure
8 Tivoli's Villa d'—
9 Snicker sound
10 "Fie!"
11 Ginger —
12 Murdered
13 Mobs
14 Bear out
15 Tillis or Ferrer
16 Bumbling
17 Communal
18 Mrs. Archie Bunker
24 British school
25 "Wild Child" singer
30 "Stroker —" ('83 film)
33 Wedding wear
35 Terminate
36 Switch words
37 Crooked
38 Basics
39 Gator's cousin
40 Pol base
42 Caviar
43 Sea plea
44 '59 Marty Robbins hit
48 Scenter of attention?
51 Tenor Del Monaco
53 New York city
54 Bit of parsley
55 Mock
57 Sets straight
58 '60s designs
59 Sign
61 — cotta
62 Asylum
66 Emulates Simon
69 Den
70 Senator Kefauver
72 Computer acronym
75 Bea Arthur role
76 Maestro Dorati
77 "Big" star
78 Runnymede's river
79 Vitality
80 Zodiac crustacean
86 San —, CA
89 Colleague of Yves and Christian
90 Grocer's measure
91 Bronte heroine
93 Halloween accessory
96 Author LeShan
97 Super, for short
98 Harbinger
101 Eastern "Way"
105 Common contraction
106 Sand flea
107 Lady of Spain
109 — milk
111 Carrot or parsnip
113 Scout's honor?
114 Ryan of "Barry Lyndon"
115 "Wonderwall" rockers
116 Java joints
117 Worked wood
119 Refuse
123 Non-stereo
124 Forehead
125 Belle —, FL
127 Blind as —
128 Skater Lipinski
129 High-strung
131 Mineral suffix
133 — Dawn Chong
134 Peculiar
135 Organ of equilibrium



ANSWER ON PAGE E3

# Milestones

*We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



## GERONIMO-QUIOCHO

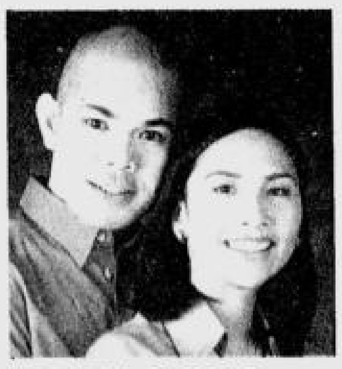
**Raundolf Reychard Geronimo**, son of **Vidal** and **Irma Geronimo**, and **Michelle Quiocho**, daughter of **Estefanio** and **Resurrection Quiocho**, exchanged vows on Jan. 8 at the Our Lady of Remedies Parish Church, Malate, Manila. Reception followed at the Traders Hotel Manila. The bride's gown was designed by **Maestro Nueno**.

## BECKLEY-LOPEZ

**Paul Anthony Beckley**, son of **Frank Charles** and **Winnifred Lydia Beckley**, wed **Ma. Victoria B. Lopez**, daughter of Major **Eduardo** (ret.) and **Jesusa Lopez**, on Jan. 5 at Westin Philippine Plaza. Reception was held in the hotel's Davao Hall. **Frederick Peralta** designed the bridal gown.

## RAMOS-MADERAZO

**Michelle C. Maderazo**, daughter of **Lope** and **Fely Maderazo**, will wed **Clarish "Jon" B. Ramos**, son of lawyer **Jose Ramos** and the former **Digna de Luna**, on Jan. 18 at the St. Peter's Church, Commonwealth Avenue, QC. Reception will be held at Casa Milan, North Fairview, QC. A second reception will be held at Pallua Sur, Tuguegarao City, on Jan. 25.



## TOLARBA-OBILLOS

**Danilo T. Tolarba**, son of **Rufino** and **Adelaida Tolarba**, will wed **Christina D. Obillos**, daughter of **Jose Jr.** and **Raquel Obillos**, on Jan. 25 at the Chapel of the Transfiguration, Caleruega, Nasugbu, Batangas. Reception will be at the Grand Ballroom, Royale Tagaytay Country Club.

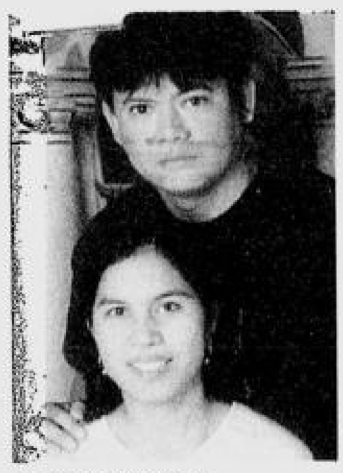
## PINCA-LAGAMAYO

**Glenn T. Pinca**, son of **Cesar Sr.** and **Estelita Pinca**, will marry **Carot U. Lagamayo**, daughter of **Adolfo Ko** and **Celerina Lagamayo**, on Jan. 18 at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, Marikina City. Reception will follow at the CVJ Clubhouse, Marikina.

## DOCENA-LEONCIO

Engineer **Lope Raul Docena**, son of Mr. and Ms. **Arturo Docena**, married Dr. **Josefina B. Leoncio**, daughter of Mr. and Ms. **Godofredo J. Leoncio**, on Jan. 4 at the Manila Cathedral. Reception followed at the Villa Immaculada Hall, Intramuros.

The bride wore a princess-cut off-white duchess satin gown by **Jun Ricaforte** of I Do. The entourage wore gowns in lilac and silver motif.



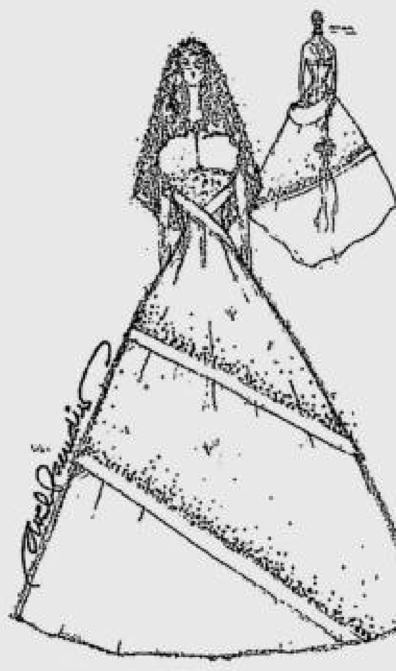
## CRUZ-HERAMIL

**Raymond R. Cruz**, son of **Silvestre** and **Adoracion Cruz**, exchanged vows with **Gilda A. Heramil**, daughter of **Porfefio Jr.** and **Gloria Heramil**, on Jan. 8 at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Merville Subdivision, Tagum City. Fr. **Randy V. Murillo** officiated at the wedding. Reception was held at the Eagle's View Hotel, Tagum City.

The bride wore a by **Ginna Badilles** and **Mimi Torres** for Nories Fashion.

## SARAU-BRAWNER

Dr. **Francis K. Sarau**, son of Mr. and Ms **Alfredo C. Sarau** of Zamboanga City, will wed Dr. **Aileen C. Brawner**, daughter of Mr. And Ms. **Rolando G. Brawner**, on Jan. 24 at the Manila Cathedral. Reception will be held at Father Blanco's Garden, Intramuros.



## LABALLA-BACUDIO

**Felix Siguenza Laballa**, son of **Ambrosito Sr.** and **Natividad Laballa**, married **Jeyjette Salvamante Bacudio**, daughter of **Avelino Sr.** and **Trinidad Bacudio**, on Jan. 4 at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Buhi, Camarines Sur. Reception followed at the Lake Buhi Resort. **Avel Bacudio** designed the gowns of the bride and the entourage.

## ENRIQUEZ-EZEQUIEL

**Daniel D. Enriquez**, son of **Danilo** and **Sandra Enriquez**, tied the knot with **Edna Katherine G. Ezequiel**, daughter of **Justiniano Jr.** and **Edna Ezequiel**, on Jan. 5 at the San Agustin Church, Manila. Reception followed at the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion.

# Wedding fair in Forbes

PHILTRADE Exhibits, with Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, is hosting "May Kasal Sa Forbes Park 2003," a wedding fair, on Feb. 15-16, at the Parish Social Hall, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Future brides and grooms will find a wide array of products and services to help them prepare for their big day.

Themed quadrants, specially designed by event stylist and director Henry Pascual, will represent different kinds of wedding motifs.

The opening day will feature a bridal gown presentation featuring designs by the country's leading fashion designers and modeled by Santuario de San Antonio Youth Ministry members.

Call 820-7879/1570 or page (1581) 632-8592.

# Competition in wedding song performance

CHORAL groups with at least 16 members are invited to join The 1st Wedding Expo Philippines Choir Competition March 1-2 at the NBC Tent cocktail grounds. Choir members must be 16 years old and above.

The grand prize winner will receive P50,000 in cash. A Premyo Publiko based on audience votes will also be given. The competition will focus on choral performance of liturgical compositions and love songs sung in weddings.

Call 371-9783 or 410-0032 or visit www.weddingexpophil.com. Deadline for registration is Jan. 15.

# Making the country proud

## PURELY PERSONAL

*Josephine Darang*

WHILE would-be travelers to the Philippines are being warned not to come here, Filipinos and organizations overseas continue to make their country proud as they excel in their work and professions and help their *kababayan*.

Last Dec. 12 in Malacañang, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presented Presidential Awards to individuals and organizations chosen by a panel of judges created by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, headed by executive director Jose Z. Molano.

This is the fifth time in 10 years that the awards have been given. To date, there have been 195 awardees. The event focuses on the good that people are doing overseas.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas, created by Batas Pambansa Bilang 70 on June 16, 1980, promotes the well-being of Filipino emigrants, as well as harnesses their fullest potentials as partners in the country's development. Its vision is to see Filipinos overseas become more widely recognized as a competitive, world-class community with an important and productive role in the countries where they live while actively maintaining their strong political, economic and cultural ties with the Philippines.

The awards were given in four categories. "Lingkod sa Kapwa Filipino" went to Dr. Cosme Cagas, who works in the United States, while "Kaanib ng Bayan" award was given to the International Medical Help for Children in Belgium.

### Helping overseas Pinoys

Recipients of the "Banaag Award," given to Filipino and foreign individuals or associations advancing the cause of Filipino communities overseas, were: Babaylan Switzerland, Estrella Beatty, Cyprus; Norma Benzon, USA; Centre for Filipino Concerns, Australia; Lolita Compas, USA: Zenaida Concepcion, Libya; William Dechavez, USA; Dr. Ruby de Guzman-Formoso, Canada; Sonia del Rosario, Canada; Filipino Association in Brunei; Filipino Communities Council of Australia; Filipino Community Center, USA; Dr. Marcos Fojas, Greece; Kalayaan, United Kingdom; Bridget Lew, Singapore; Maharlika-Switzerland; Benjamin Manglona, CNMI; National Organization of Professional Teachers, Hong Kong; Philippine Association of Metropolitan Washington Engineers, USA; Dr. N. Ravindranathan Brunei Darrusalam; Dr. Francis Talangbayan, USA; and Benjamin Tomelden, Jr., United Kingdom.

The "Pamana ng Pilipino" award for overseas Filipinos who excelled in their profession went to Manolo Abella, Switzerland; Belinda Aquino, Ph.D, USA; Benjamin Cayetano, Governor of Hawaii; Arlene Joan Chai, Australia; Lina Cianni, Italy; Joanne de Asis Benitez, USA; Cesar dela Cruz, Indonesia; Renato Garcia, a nurse conferred the title Member of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II and who helps mentally handicapped people; Mayor Michael Patrick Guingona of Daly City; and Josie Cruz Natori, USA.

### In unlikely places

Molano said, "...Filipinos (abroad) are (holding) good jobs. And they are everywhere. I found them in the most unlikely places like Mackinaw Island in Lake Huron. Imagine, I met four Filipinos working in a hotel there. And they told me that a Filipino priest would come once a week to say Mass."

Dr. Zenaida Concepcion, a Filipino doctor, has been working in Libya for the past 24 years. Now connected with the Ministry of Health in Tripoli, she considers Filipino patients her special beneficiaries, helping them pay minimal fees for treatment or even to receive free medical service.

The doctor, who hopes to retire next year, received the "Banaag award" for her commitment to serve.

### Good news

The Philippines has been chosen by the World Travel Organization to be the center of visits in 2003. "Visit Philippines 2003" will be launched on Jan. 31 with a parade from the Old Ateneo site in Intramuros at 4 p.m. Participating in the parade are towns of Region IV.

Special performances have been arranged by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts after the parade. In the evening, there will be a fireworks display in Intramuros. In charge of the project are director Ting de los Reyes and director Louella Jurilla.

Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon said he would continue to promote tourism as he wanted to give jobs to Filipinos in tourism-related businesses like hotels, restaurants, handicrafts, transportation, food, etc.

"We cannot say that we cannot do it. We say, that we can," he said.

### Mother Consuelo miracles

On our way to Rome last year, I gave a prayer to Servant of God Mother Consuelo Barcelo, founder of the Augustinian Order of Our Lady of Consolation, to Annie Lukban. She told me about her friend Pinang de los Santos, who was suffering from the first stage of cancer and could hardly walk. When Annie came home, she gave the prayer to Pinang, who immediately prayed to Mother Consuelo.

I heard last week from Annie that Pinang was well and all symptoms of cancer were gone. Pinang will attend a meeting of nuns on Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. at their convent in San Juan and will make a testimony of her healing. Those interested to give testimony can go to La Consolacion Convent on Santolan Road, San Juan. Ask for Sister Puri Alma Peña, OSA. Those who want prayers can write her at the same address. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Mother Consuelo has also helped me in little things like getting a taxi when it is extremely difficult to get one.

In Rome, we prayed to Mother Consuelo to help us get the right telephone number for a nun in the Agostino Monasterio de Santa Lucia. We did and were able to go to the convent where we met Fr. Isabelo Abarquez, rector of San Carlos Seminary, who was on leave and was staying for one year at the Trappist Monastery in Guimaras. He was also there for the canonization of St. Josemaria Escriva. He said Mass for us that evening, a Thanksgiving Mass in honor of the new saint. Fr. Abarquez believes in Escriva's call to holiness.

SOME of the recipients of the Presidential Award for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (Pamana category) with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: (from left) Antonio Yao (representing Arlene Chai), Joanne de Asis Benitez, Lina Ciani, Manolo Abella, Michael Guingona, Cesar dela Cruz, Mona Lisa Yuchengco, Felipe Cruz (representing Josie Natori), Renato Garcia and Consul Eva Betita (representing Gov. Benjamin Cayetano)

### Retreat

Contemplative Outreach Philippines is inviting those who have been practicing centering prayer for six months to attend a retreat Jan. 17-19 at the St. Joseph Morello House in Tagaytay. Those interested can call the secretariat at 842-4030 or 632-3644.

Jesus Cardenas, president and trustee of the Philippine Band of Mercy (PBM), is asking for help so the organization, which gives free operations to children with cleft palate and also helps those suffering from glaucoma, clubfoot, and hearing impairments, can continue the work it has been doing the past 65 years. Please call 733-9044 or telefax 735-0709 if you wish to help.

PBM address is 310 San Rafael St., San Miguel, Manila. Thank you for your kindness.

### Infant Jesus feast

The Miraculous Infant Jesus de Providencia located at 65 A. Pijuan St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City, will mark its 11th feast day on Jan. 27. Devotees are invited to join the thanksgiving celebrations 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

The Holy Image shedding healing oil of grace will be at the festival grounds. Novenas, rosaries and oil in tiny vials will be distributed to devotees. A motorcade will start from the Sto. Niño prayer room at 2 p.m. for the concelebrated Mass to be led by Rev. Fr. Jerry H. Habunal.

### Sto. Niño exhibit

The 10-day exhibit of the country's collection of Sto. Niños will open on Jan. 16 at the Philippine National Bank (PNB) Long Gallery Area, Roxas Boulevard.

The exhibit ushers in the Fiesta del Sto. Niño, a 24-year old annual event organized by Sto. Niño devotees, the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre de Niño Jesus, headed by founding chair Ben Farrales.

The Fiesta del Sto. Niño exhibit will showcase antique and colorful Sto. Niños that Filipinos have collected and paid homage to throughout the years.

A grand procession of Sto. Niño *carrozas* will be held on Jan. 26 from the Philtrade area to the Luneta grandstand.

The Fiesta del Sto. Niño celebrations coincide with the fourth World Meeting of Families to be held in the country, and aims to promote the Infant Jesus' love and miraculous works to the public.

For more information on the Fiesta and the exhibit, contact Pope Pius' office at 526-9126 local 18, Ben Farrales at 524-8439, or Noli Hans at 523-5102.

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Step 3 Place your form, together with the required "Pampers heart points" corresponding to the toy/s of your choice and your proof/s of purchase (photocopy or actual) in a plain white envelope, address to **Pampa One Step Ahead** and submit to any LBC outlet nationwide.

**Rules or Regulations:**

Incomplete information will invalidate the entry

Points per pack:

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| Economy | S24, M22, L20, XL18 | 5 Points |
| Value | M42, L38, XL34 | 10 Points |

Only purchases made during the promo period will be honored.

An acknowledgement receipt will be issued to those with complete entries.

Your Pampa toy/s will be delivered to you by LBC for free within four (4) weeks from the day your application or entry is received.

TEAM LBC HARI NG PADALA!

You can claim more than one type of Pampa toy as long as the required "Pampers heart points" are submitted.

You can submit your entries to any LBC outlet until 60 days after the end of the promo period.

Employees of Procter & Gamble Phils., Ace Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, LBC, its PR agencies, including relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Promo period is from January 1, 2003 up to February 28, 2003.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

**GOODBYE, PATRICIA.** Celebrating life, courtesy of Patricia Borromeo

**MUST-HAVE** phone—Nokia 6800

# Woman of courage and substance

## T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

*Anton San Diego*

Saying goodbye to Patricia. Last Wednesday, **Patricia Borromeo** passed away. She was 31 years old. I did not know her well enough to be considered part of her group. But during the times I spent with her I could tell she was kind, down-to-earth and the type of person who always made you feel good. She never had anything bad to say and was always positive.

As I thought of how to describe this lady, it occurred to me that that would be the way I would also like to be remembered. It's not how much money you hade in the bank, your Ph.D., the car you drove or who you knew or even who you went out with; it's how you had touched one person, and made life better for him/her. Patricia did that to me. Her life and her battle with cancer were examples of courage and perseverance. She will be missed. The lives of those who were privileged to be touched by her, were made richer just by being with Patricia.

**Must-have bag—Louis Vuitton's Murakami bag.** Need some lift and color for the new year? Why not start with your bag? This year, banish drab and dark colors and follow the rainbow. Louis Vuitton did just that and fearlessly updated the classic monogram. This time around, the company teamed up with Japanese artist **Takashi Murakami.** The result? What would be the most coveted bag for the first six months of the year. It's fun, playful, flirty and speaks of your sense of style and humor, suggesting you have tons of them!

**Must-have phone—Nokia 6800.** The new year not only means a change in the last digit of the year from 2 to 3. It also ushers in a new era in technology. The 2002 craze for the Nokia 7650 camera is sure to die down,

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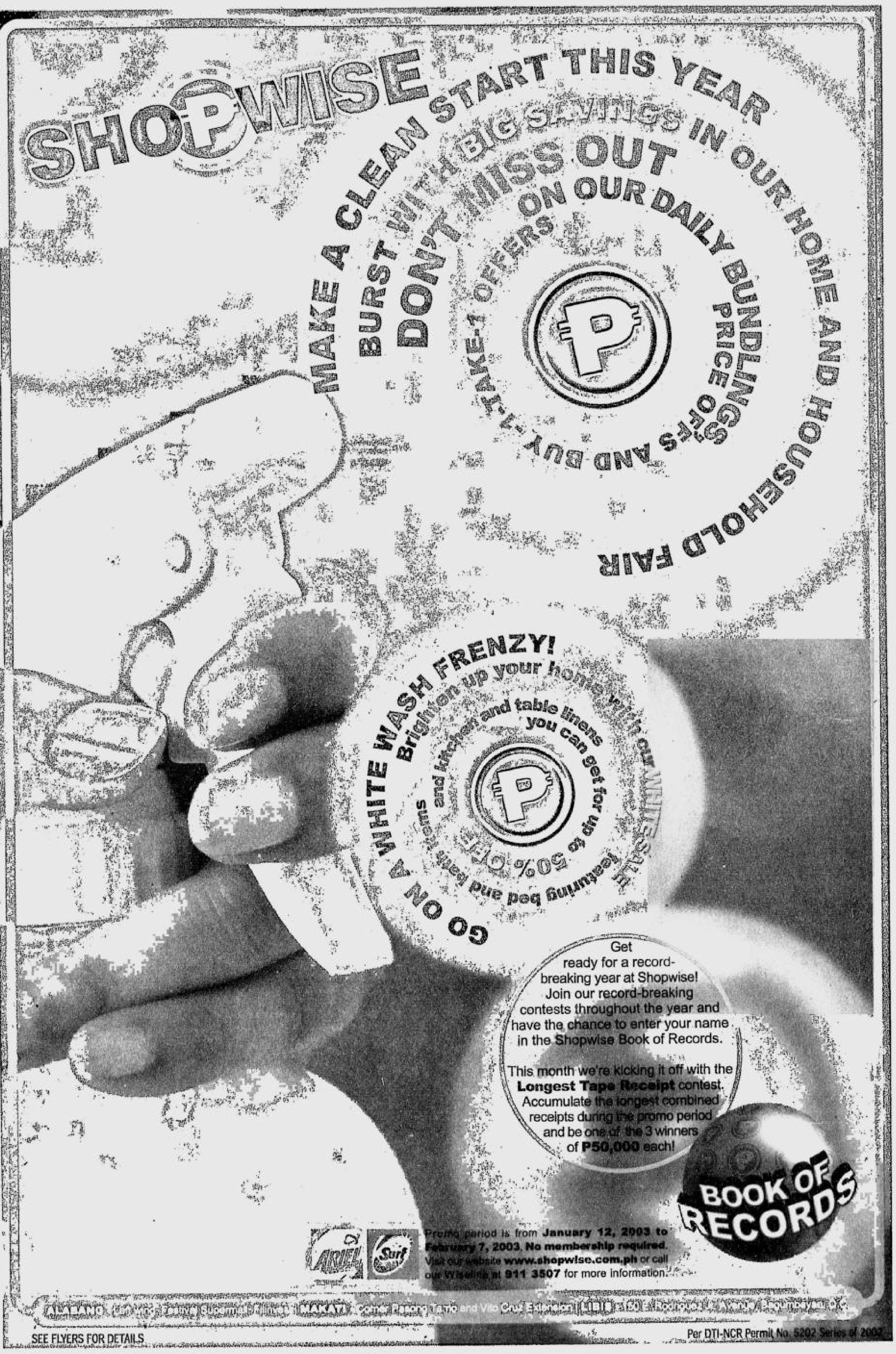

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Get ready for a record-breaking year at Shopwise! Join our record-breaking contests throughout the year and have the chance to enter your name in the Shopwise Book of Records.
This month we're kicking it off with the **Longest Tape Receipt** contest. Accumulate the longest combined receipts during the promo period and be one of the 3 winners of **P50,000** each!
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5202 Series of 2002

# The whitest of snow-white parties

By Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THEME parties are my favorite. So when I planned my annual Christmas bash with the help of my coolest cousin, Leica Carpo, we chose wicked winter whites for an evening of fun and laughter. We also requested the guests to bring an exchange gift that was "hot" and a stocking stuffer that made one "sweat."

To my surprise, I got a text from a very stylish friend, Patrick Reyno, saying that he was hosting a Christmas party with the same theme on the same day. Great fashionable minds do think alike. I called him to coordinate the evening schedule and work out a plan in which the guests could stay with me till 1 a.m. and proceed to his place after. Since his party was bigger, it all worked out well.

A lot of preparation was needed to create a Winter Wonderland room in my house. In fact, I bumped into Patrick in two places, Rustan's and Carolina's, where we bought props for the evening. I ended up getting yards and yards of cheap and practical Gina silk fabric to drape around the house and white pompom trimmings that we hung to look like snow.

Jon-Jon Rufino shared with me white feathers from a previous party which I scattered on the floor.

With turkey from my mom's house, a huge garden salad by chef Joey Carpo, and delicious food from El Cirkulo chosen by my yoga buddy Malu Gamboa, my party was in full swing.

The party, of course, started fashionably late at about 9 p.m. Famous bar owner and good friend Joji Dingcong won my early turtle dove prize for being the first guest to arrive. He even watched my taping with ABS-CBN's "Etcetera," which featured my New Year's look.

December celebrators Maurice Arcache and Anton San Diego came early, too. Donned in white, they were party-hopping that day. Shortly after them came the Barretto boys Anton and Angelo, who walked in their bride for the night, Leah Puyat, who wore a very interesting geometric necklace over her elegant satin wedding gown.

All my parties have games, but for this one, an added feature was a photo session with Noby Cabanero, who set up his digital camera and printer so guests could see their photos instantly. We did all the combination group shots possible. Everyone participated—from the Carpo girls with Pixie and Eoin O'Neil, to lifestyle leaders such as Ben Chan, Miguel Pastor, Firma-Makati partners Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre, and Joe Salazar. Mons Tantoco and Juan Miguel Ongsiako joined in the group shots.

It was winter holiday in tropical Manila last Christmas

**CHINA-BASED** gorgeous couple Tony and Wendy Hotung strike a pose with Yvette Rodriguez.

**DJ of the night Joel Tantoco chills out with Victor Consunji and Victoria London.**

## Prancing around

Multi-functioning parties are the most interesting. Most guests can just go prancing around from one activity to another. So while some were with Noby, the Snow Queen got the others in a festive mood with Christmas parlor games such as "fill in the blank," "guessing game," Pictionary, etc. Virgie Ramos, Gift Gate's grand dame with a super big heart, and Girlie Rodis arrived just in time for the games.

Andy and Katty Jacinto also brought bottles of wine to toast the season bright while Karla Delgado tried to hum the Christmas alphabet.

The highlight of the night was the exchange of gifts. I got "How to Make Love to A Man," the illustrated version, from Chito. There were lubricants, sex videos and pepper spray as gifts (they were supposed to make one "hot" and "sweaty").

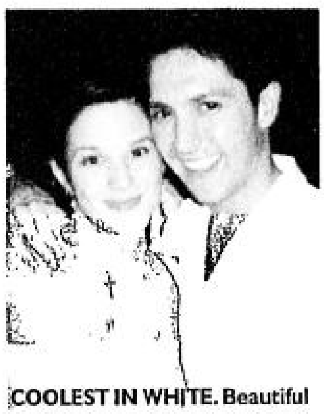
Ben and Miguel passed around 2003 Bench calendars showing male models and Aubrey Miles.

After the guests got souvenir Urban Spa gift packages and mini-pine trees from Tagaytay, we partied on at Patrick's. There, white elements were seen throughout with tables covered with white roses, balloons, and tulle. White Christmas trees were scattered randomly on the lawn.

The scene here was chill-out cool with the latest sounds from good buddies David Jacob, Joel Tantoco and Adrian Hernandez, who spun ultra-hip beats until the wee hours of morning.

So in the last holiday season, white proved much hotter than any other color in the spectrum, shaming even the holiday fave color, black.

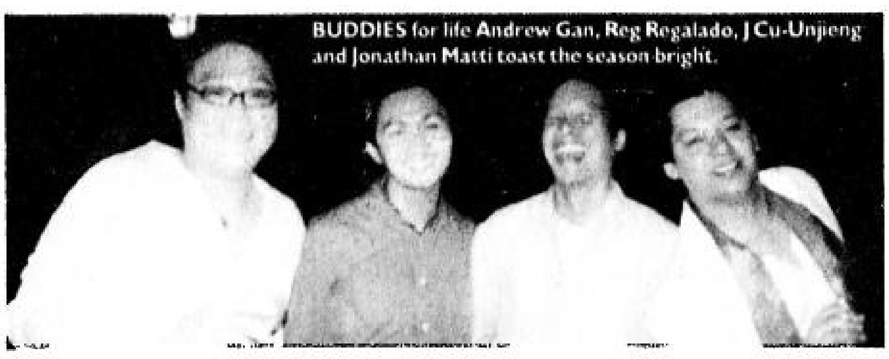
**VISITING funky aunt Pixie O'Neil with cool white couple Leica Carpo and Juan Miguel Ongsiako**



**COOLEST IN WHITE. Beautiful couple Bianca Araneta and Juan Elizalde**

**DECEMBER celebrants Maurice Arcache and Anton San Diego look fab in white.**

**CLEARLY** the best fun party hosts Leica Carpo, Patrick Reyno and the Snow Queen



**BUDDIES** for life Andrew Gan, Reg Regalado, J Cu-Unjieng and Jonathan Matti toast the season bright.

**MONS Tantoco in the wrong color (but excused with her white pants) serves as contrast in this smashing group photo.**

MUST-HAVE bag—LV Murakami

# Shop and get a Japanese treat

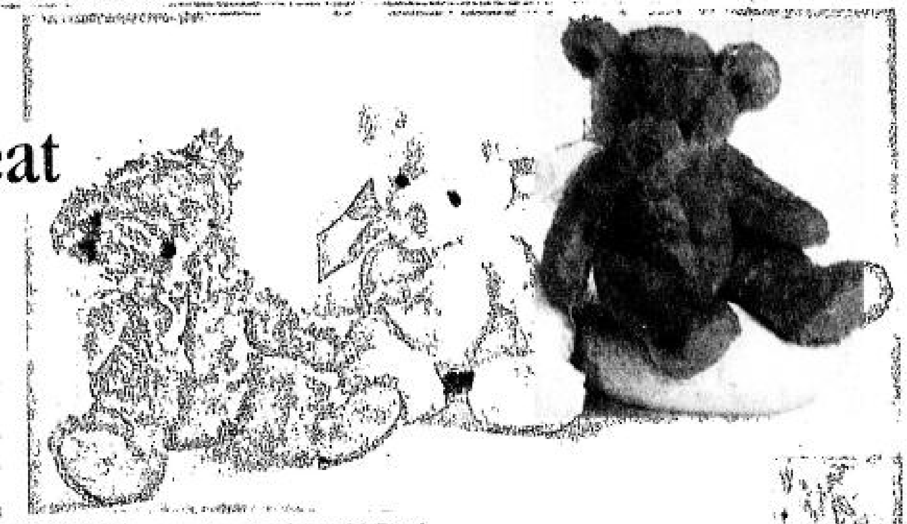
GIFT Gate welcomes the new year by turning Japanese.

Have a yummy snack at Tokyo Tokyo every time you shop at any Gift Gate and Sanrio Surprises stores until Feb. 15. Every P100 purchase entitles you to a free Tokyo Tokyo Yakisoba coupon. Simply present the free Yakisoba coupon, along with your Gift Gate or Sanrio Surprises official receipt, at any Tokyo Tokyo outlet (except for Tokyo Tokyo Pampanga), and buy a Red Iced Tea to get a Yakisoba for free.

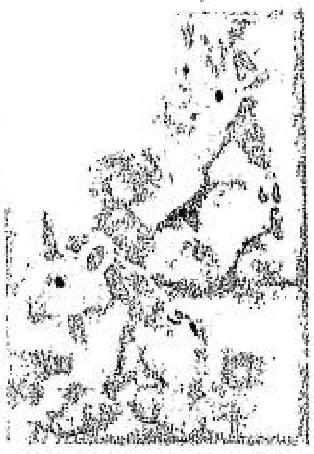
Get some of Gift Gate's latest offerings, such as Sanrio's new line of huggable character pillows or Russ plush animal dolls to avail of this great treat.

If you crave more Japanese food, try Tokyo Tokyo's new teriyaki dishes at affordable prices.

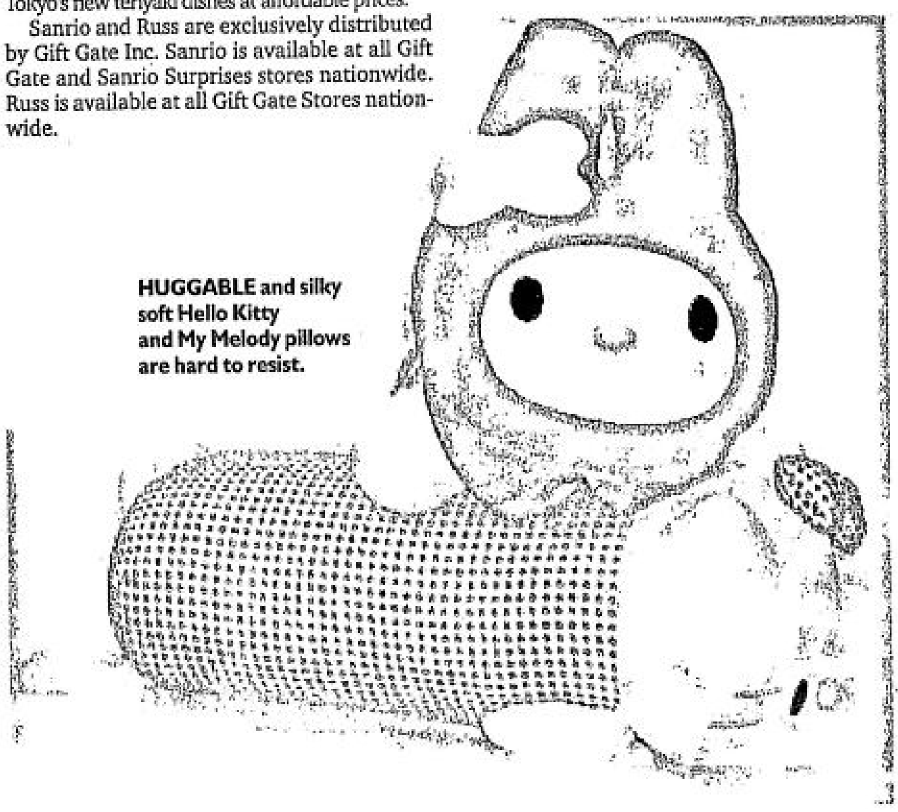
Sanrio and Russ are exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc. Sanrio is available at all Gift Gate and Sanrio Surprises stores nationwide. Russ is available at all Gift Gate Stores nationwide.



**SPREAD** the sweet smell of love with Russ' rose-scented beanbag bears.



**EVERY** little girl would love these floppy beanbag unicorns from Russ with appliqued hearts and sparkle accents



**HUGGABLE** and silky soft Hello Kitty and My Melody pillows are hard to resist.

**ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD**

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| E | L | S | E | ■ | E | A | S | E | D | ■ | D | O | W | E | R | ■ | S | T | A | Y |

# Woman of courage and substance

From page E1

with the entry of (drum roll, please)... the Nokia 6800, by far the most advanced-looking phone I have seen in years. It makes my Nokia 6210i look like a dinosaur!

The 6800 phone is perfect for Filipinos since it is so SMS-friendly (you hold the phone horizontally and flip it open to access a keyboard). Check out its features: longer text and multimedia (meaning it can handle a camera too) messaging, FM radio, e-mail, online shopping via WAP, calculator, color screen, screen saver and digital clock, and the all-important games—Triple Pop and Bounce (hmmm, don't know that one)—and a speaker phone. Don't you feel like crying because you just got a new phone last Christmas? Well, don't fret. Nokia 6800 will only be available in the first quarter of the year.

## TNT tidbits

**Blacklisted.** The notorious **Mr. Blackwell** has released his annual list of worst-dressed personalities in the world. This year's major fashion disaster is **Anna Nicole Smith**. Other members of the elite group of fashion "criminals" are **Kelly Osbourne, Cameron Diaz, Princess Anne,** author **Anne Rice, Donatella Versace**, who was dubbed "a flash-fired Venus stuck in a Miami strip mall," **Meg Ryan, Christina Aguilera** and **Pink**.

On the other hand, Blackwell praised the style of **Renee Zellweger, Kate Winslet, Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Debra Messing, Halle Berry, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Oprah Winfrey**, Jordan's **Princess Firyal** and **Jennifer Aniston**, hailing them as 2002's "Fabulous Fashion Independents."

**"Sex and the City's" last season.** After six glorious seasons, the popular comedy series "Sex and the City" will tape its final episode early next year. Twenty episodes will begin production in March, of which 12 will be broadcast this summer and the rest starting in January 2004. The members of the cast agreed it would be a "strong place to go off."

**The people's princess. Princess Stephanie** of Monaco has moved on to new and bigger things (or so she thinks). After dumping her circus-trainer beau and, before that, a nightclub owner, ski instructor, bodyguard and waiter, she is now seeing... her father's butler! The public has always wanted a "people's princess," one who feels for the common folk. Well, she is it!

**The annual best hotel list.** Conde Nast Traveler and Travel & Leisure are both my favorite travel magazines. In their January issues, they came out with their annual lists of the best hotels in the world. Since they go head to head in the magazine industry, they have opposing points of view when it comes to hotels, well at least those in the Philippines.

Conde Nast Traveler puts Peninsula Manila at the top of their list, while Travel & Leisure picks Makati Shangri-La. So, who's right? Well, my choice is the one on the right... but then I am not saying from which end of Ayala I am looking at them.

**New year, new goals.** I am not one of those persons who makes resolutions because, like many, I don't fulfill them anyway.

But in the spirit of improving one's self, I have listed down my goals for the year. It's time to put things in their proper perspective and, as I look to the future, I resolve to make changes and hard decisions. Here goes:

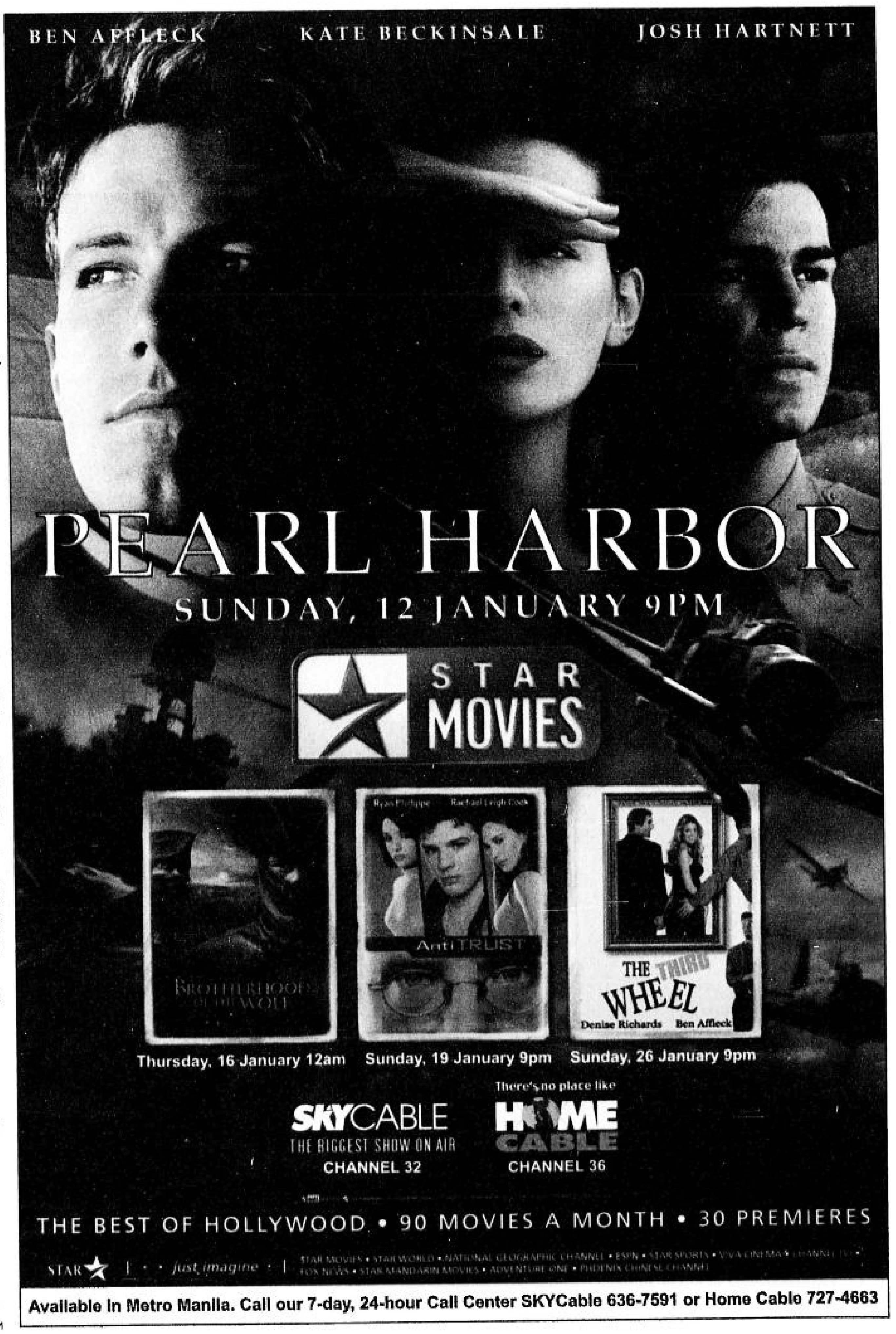
1. Try not to laugh at people who have theme parties and really look funny in their get-up.
2. To do unto those people who only befriend you because they want something from you, what they do to me and milk them dry!
3. Promise not to laugh when a person has had too much botox done to her face that, sad or happy, she looks the same.
4. Not to get mad and get even, but to pray when someone says or does something bad to me. Pray that he/she lose all his/her hair and teeth!
5. Help **Bong Revilla** in his campaign to eliminate piracy by giving him the names of all my friends (you know who you are) who buy pirated DVDs.
6. To throw out all the toiletries and other things I have collected over the years from my travels (i.e. shampoo, shower cap, needle kit, Q-tips), especially the ones from local hotels.
7. Date, sleep around, drink, be merry, dress sexily, and eventually, when I've grown tired of all that... be a bold star!
8. Water the plants.
9. To keep cool, not get stressed or shout when someone in the office commits a major blunder. I will relax and put thumb tacks on his/her chair.
10. Try not to be too controversial, just a bit will do.

Well here's wishing you all a great 2003! Resolve to make this the best year yet. If you have your own "unique" resolutions for the year, I would appreciate it if you e-mail me.

*E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com*

**BYE-BYE.** The phenomenal "Sex & the City" comedy series on HBO will soon bid its fans adieu.

PHOTO TAKEN FROM HBO.COM



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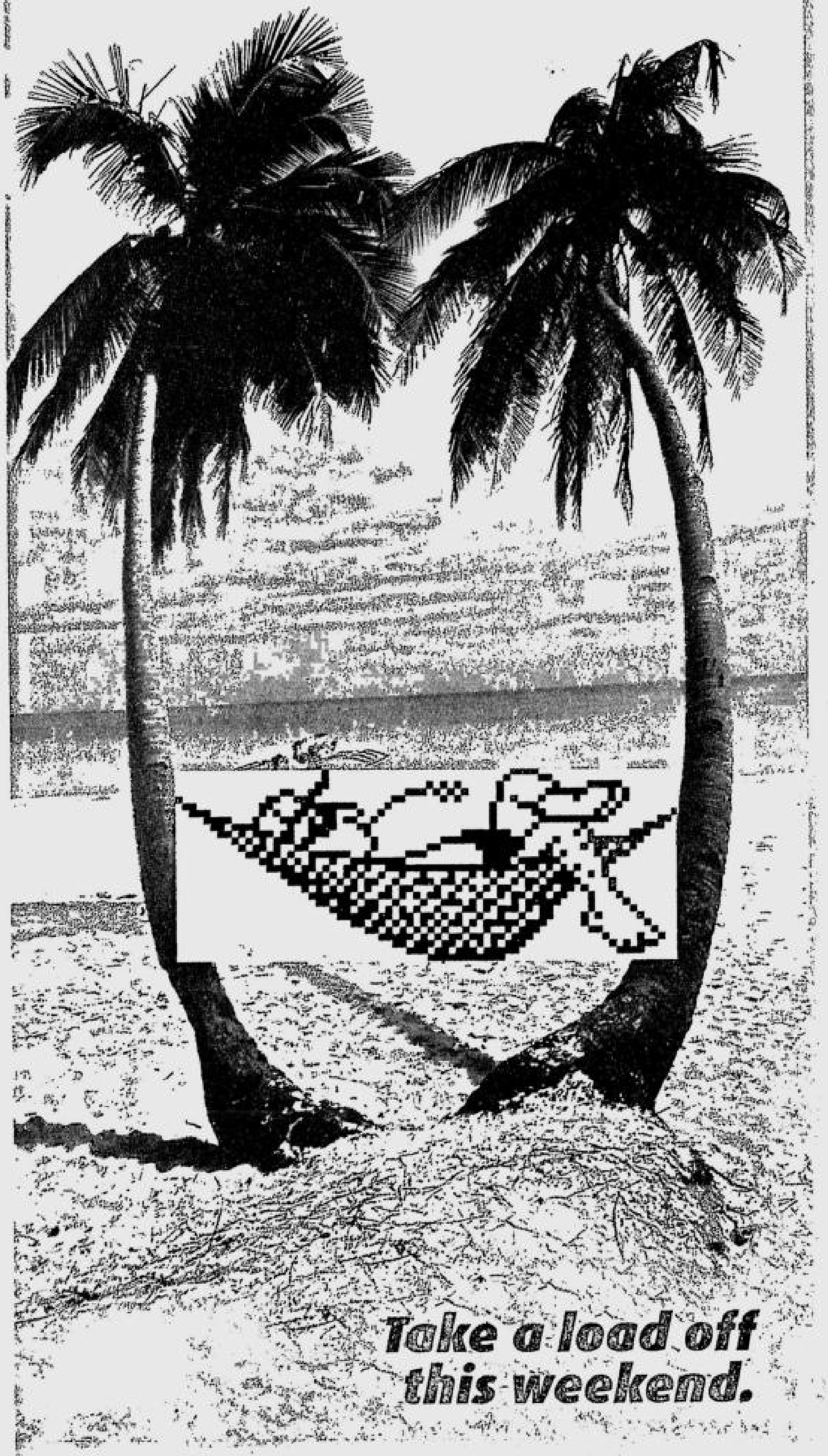

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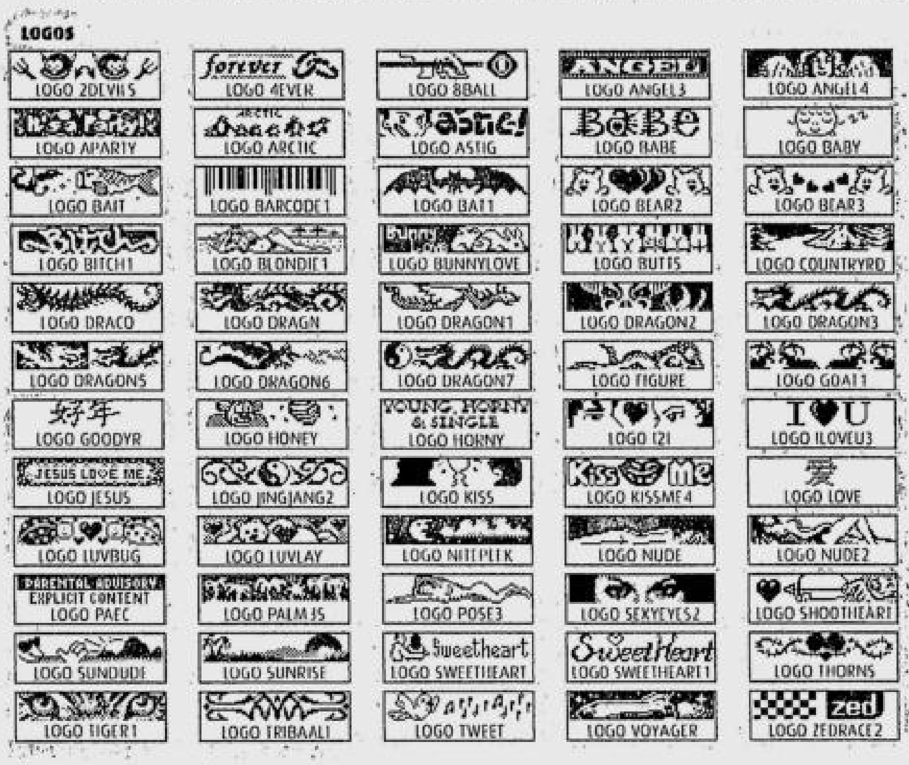

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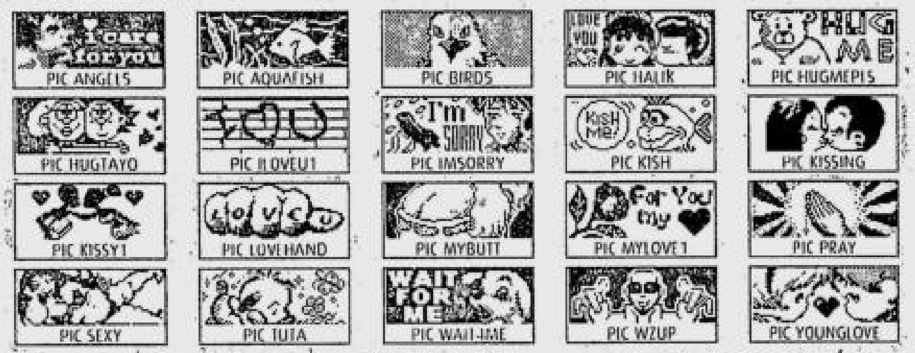

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| All Stood Still | *Ultravox* | **TONE STUDSTIL** |
| Achy Breaky Heart | *Billy Ray Cyrus* | **TONE ACHY** |
| Mmm Bop | *Hanson* | **TONE MMMBOP** |
| Rock The Casbah | *The Clash* | **TONE ROCKCASBAH** |
| Right Here Right Now | *Stevie B.* | **TONE RITEHIRNOW** |
| Sino Ang Baliw | *Kuh Ledesma* | **TONE SINOBALIW** |
| Ironic | *Alanis Morissette* | **TONE IRONIC** |
| God Must Have Spent A Little More Time On You | *N'sync* | **TONE GODSPENT** |
| Asereje | *Las Ketchup* | **TONE ASEREJE** |
| Dilemma | *Nelly* | **TONE DILEMMA** |
| Sk8Erboi | *Avril Lavigne* | **TONE SK8ERBOI** |
| American Pie | *Don McLean* | **TONE AMERICANPIE** |
| Build Me Up, Buttercup | *Sound Alike* | **TONE BUTTERCUP** |
| Bakit Papa | *Sex Bomb* | **TONE BAKITPAPA** |
| Enveloped Ideas | *The Dawn* | **TONE ENVELOPED** |
| Salamat | *The Dawn* | **TONE SALAMAT** |
| I Will Be Here | *Gary Valenciano* | **TONE IWILLBE** |
| Wasting | *Default* | **TONE WASTING** |
| Magasin | *Eraserheads* | **TONE MAGASIN1** |
| Lady Marmalade | *Christina Aguilera* | **TONE MARMALADE** |
| Misery | *Pink* | **TONE MISERY** |
| Next In Line | *After Image* | **TONE NXTINLINE** |
| Pagdating | *Aiza Seguerra* | **TONE PAGDATING** |
| Alapaap | *Eraserheads* | **TONE ALAPAAP** |
| Spiderman | *Movie Theme* | **TONE SPIDERMAN** |
| Sweet Home Alabama | *Lynrd Skynrd* | **TONE SWEETHOME** |
| Mga Praning | *Francis M.* | **TONE PRANING** |
| Uptown Girl | *Billy Joel/West Life* | **TONE UPTOWN** |
| Give Me Just A Little More Time | *Dunber/Wayne* | **TONE GIVEME** |
| Insensitive | *Jann Arden* | **TONE INSENSITIVE** |
| Kaleidoscope World | *Francis M.* | **TONE KALEIDOS** |
| Kisapmata | *Rivermaya* | **TONE KISAPMATA** |
| Munsters Theme | *Marshall/Mosher* | **TONE MUNSTERS** |
| Tayo'y Mga Pinoy | *Francis M.* | **TONE TAYOYPINOY** |
| I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing | *Chet Atkins* | **TONE TEACHDWORLD** |
| Should I Stay Or Should I Go | *The Clash* | **TONE STAYORGO** |
| Cruel Summer | *Bananarama* | **TONE CRUEL** |

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- Communicates with technical peers, business or user group heads as well as technical leaders in the organization.

**Qualifications:**
- Bachelor's Degree; post graduate education is a plus
- At least 6 years experience in application/solution development experience including significant experience in managing one of the following: client server, mainframe or web system programming projects
- Functional knowledge of a variety of technologies and how they work together
- Project Management and planning skills
- Track record of people, performance and development management

### Web Developer

**Principal Responsibilities**
- Performs application development and testing tasks under general supervision for internal or external customers.
- Assists Senior Web Developer/Systems Analyst in implementing more complex Internet and/or Intranet application initiatives.
- Prepare required system documentation for full application lifecycle, as per standards.

**Qualifications:**
- Bachelor's degree in an IT related field preferred
- 2 years lead development experience utilizing Object Oriented Design in multi-tier client server or n-tier secure Internet and/or Intranet platforms including 2 years of demonstrated SQL language application skills. Secure application integration experience with Authentication, Certificates, SSL, Netegrity, and LDAP.
- Implementation experience with Java, Java Servlets and EJB.
- Experience with object-oriented analysis and design with UML using tools like Rational Rose.
- Ability to utilize DBMS back-end MS SQL Server 6.5/7.0, Sybase System 10.x/11.x, or Oracle 7x/8.x utilizing stored procedures and Dynamic SQL.
- Understanding of PowerBuilder, Visual Basic, MS Active Server Pages, Allaire Cold Fusion, Netscape Application Server, or Oracle Application Server.
- Understanding of HTML, VBScript, JavaScript, DHTML, XML, and XSL presentation languages, FTP, and PDF/FDF document format.

### Project Manager – Information Management

**Principal Responsibilities:**
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- Will provide the technical review and overall guidance.

**Qualifications:**
- Masters degree preferred
- A minimum of 10 years of experience in the Information Technology industry with prior experience in a systems integrator or consulting company
- Implementation expertise with all of the following technologies: Data Mgmt, Database Design/ Implementation and Data Warehouse technologies which includes: Data and Object Modeling methods/ tools, Meta Data Mgmt, Data Extraction, Transformation and Load (ETL), Data Cleansing, Decision Support (Query & Reporting, OLAP, Data Mining, CRM) and Information Portals/Web Warehousing.

### Systems Analyst

**Principal Responsibilities:**
- Evaluates complex client area web requirements and processes.
- Prepare and evaluate systems specifications for client area(s) web requirements including the identification of appropriate firewalls to safeguard business information from inappropriate access.
- Develops web application/package solutions that may involve diverse platforms, databases, software, hardware, technologies and tools.
- Implement predefined technical architecture framework.
- May provide effort estimates for development and deployment, and prepare workplan for the same.
- May train junior staff and monitor the activities of a small group of web developers.

**Qualifications:**
- Bachelor's degree in an IT related field preferred
- 3-5 years progressive programming experience including 2 years analytical experience
- Ability to provide technical skills to isolate and solve web application issues.
- Implementation experience with Java, Java Servlets and EJB.
- Experience with object-oriented analysis and design with UML using tools like Rational Rose.
- Ability to utilize DBMS back-end MS SQL Server 6.5/7.0, Sybase System 10.x/11.x, or Oracle 7x/8.x utilizing stored procedures and Dynamic SQL.
- Understanding of PowerBuilder, Visual Basic, MS Active Server Pages, Allaire Cold Fusion, Netscape Application Server, or Oracle Application Server.
- Understanding of HTML, VBScript, JavaScript, DHTML, XML, and XSL presentation languages, FTP, and PDF/FDF document format.

### Project Manager – E-Business

**Principal Responsibilities:**
- Supervise a team which may include Business Analysts, Web Designers / Developers, Systems Administrators, and Database Administrators. The person will manage the day-to-day activities of the team.
- Perform software project planning, tracking and oversight, requirement management, configuration management, quality management, and third party vendor management.

**Qualifications:**
- Bachelor's Degree; post graduate or formal training in Project Management is a plus
- In-depth knowledge of web technologies, state of the art software and tools, a broad knowledge of system and technology alternatives, and the ability to work effectively with clients and IT managers and vendors.
- 5 years LEAD development experience which may include multi-tier client server and n-tier secure Internet and/or Intranet component-based platforms, including 3 years development experience with MS Active Server Pages, Allaire Cold Fusion, Netscape Application Server, or Oracle Application Server, and 2 years experience in HTML, DHTML, XML, and XSL presentation languages, FTP, and PDF document format.
- Implementation experience with Java, Java Servlets and EJB.
- Experience with object-oriented analysis and design with UML using tools like Rational Rose.
- Has demonstrated analytical ability, strong judgement and problem solving skills
- Has displayed influencing leadership skills

### *ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:*
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# HR as Strategic Business Partner

**By Ernesto G. Espinosa, FPM**

*(Mr. Espinosa is currently the Immediate Past President of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). He is a Fellow in Personnel Management (FPM). He is also the Assistant Vice President of HR and General Affairs of Fujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines.)*

IN AN Asia Pacific conference attended by 700 HR professionals, the opening session was a CEO plenary entitled "Winning for the Future" where three CEOs were guest speakers. When asked individually what they thought was the role of HR in their respective organizations, the first CEO came up with what I thought was the best answer, "I view HR's role as being a strategic business partner. There is also one role of HR which I find very important. It is being able to solve organization concerns which cannot be solved by line managers." This generated a round of applause from the audience, in contrast to the second CEO who was direct yet very rigid, "HR people should not make the mistake of thinking that they are the ones who should decide. They are only there to support the CEO."

### Important Emerging Trend in HR

The personal experience that I just shared shows the current state of the HR profession. Some companies already regard HR as a key factor in an organization's success but there are still some who have not appreciated the role of HR.

There is an interesting piece of information which I would like share with the readers.

Chief Executive Officers in the United States' largest companies earned an average annual compensation of $ 1.6 million last year. So did the Executive Vice President of Human Resources of Home Depot Inc., Dennis Donovan. Mr. Donovan also earned $ 19.5 million in other compensation in 2001, bringing his total annual pay package to $ 21.2 million. This makes him the company's second highest-paid executive in the year 2001. (Source: Society for Human Resource Management). Mr. Donovan is probably more the exception to the rule. But his case should serve as an inspiration to emerging HR professionals that they too could aspire for excellent

HRASSTRATEGIC/F3

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**TRICOM Dynamics, Inc.** was launched in September 1991, and at present, ranks among the Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines. TDI offers a comprehensive line of TOSHIBA Information and Communication Systems and is the exclusive distributor of TOSHIBAPocket PCs, Notebook PCs, Digital and Analog copiers, and Multifunction Facsimile Machines. With world-class TOSHIBA products, Tricom Dynamics is able to integrate the one-top shop and full customer service concepts.

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- Pleasant personality, and with strong persuasive abilities
- Hardworking, energetic and results-oriented

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- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- Team player and with good understanding of customer Service

As these are **URGENT** requirements, all interested applicants are requested to personally submit their updated CV's from **Monday to Friday, 8:00AM-5:00PM** to our HRD.

**SYKES**℠

28F Robinson Summit Building
6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
E-mail: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com
Website: http://www.sykes.com

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

## PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATES who:

- finished at the upper 10% of his or her batch
- **is proficient in both oral and written English**
- has a strong interest in Psychological Testing & Evaluation
- should be computer literate
- should have good interpersonal skills

Contact persons:

**Dess or Christabel**
**MPCO Box 1646, 1256 Makati City**
**or call 896-0970 / 896-0742/44**

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# globalstride

Here's a great way to start the year right!

*Changing the face of customer care*

**We invite experienced and highly motivated individuals to join our growing organization for the following positions:**

### Customer Care Specialists (Code: CCS-Opns)

The Customer Care Specialists will be at the forefront of our organization by offering products and services through specified means of communications to a targeted list of International customers in behalf of our clients. Ideal candidates for the position are persons who are college degree holders between 20 and 28 years of age and willing to work shifts. They must have excellent interpersonal skills and be able to converse with the proper grammar using American diction, intonation, inflection, and articulation. Previous experience in customer relations management, sales or marketing and the ability to speak any foreign language well are a plus.

### OD Supervisor (Code: OD-Trn)

The OD Supervisor will be responsible for designing, developing, implementing and monitoring of training programs for staff and management levels. The specific area of discipline would cover a broad range of Organizational Development functions. The candidates must have sufficient exposure to interactive and integrative approaches to teaching/learning and excellent presentation skills. They must be highly organized, creative and assertive. The ideal candidate must be a university-degree holder in any of the following fields: Psychology, Human Resource Management, Industrial Engineering or Organizational Development. Post Graduate degree/s or units; a knowledge of TQM/ISO processes and an experience with a call center environment are advantages.Candidates between the ages of 25-30 years old, single and who are willing to work shifts are preferred.

### Program Manager (Code: PM-PM)

The Program Manager will be responsible in planning directing and implementing the business intiatives of the company. The candidates must have extensive experience in project and client management acquired in customer service or IT industry. They must have at least 3 years of managerial or supervisory experience in project/account management and possess strong analytical and interpersonal skills. They must be smart, aggressive and are excellent in verbal and written communication. An MBA degree from AIM/ADMU/UP is an advantage. Persons between 25-35 years of age are preferred.

### Language Training Specialist (CODE: TSL –Trn)

The candidate will be responsible for designing and conducting courses in Communications, Accent and Grammar. He/She will also facilitate language-coaching sessions and conduct on-floor language audit to capture lapses in language skill. Ideal candidates are 25-35 year-old graduates of HR, Psychology or Communication Languages, preferably female and single, with at least 2 years experience in corporate training and in teaching TOEFL, TESOL, Grammar and/or English as a Second Language (ESL), and/or English as a Foreign Language (EFL). Exposure to the call center industry, an ability to speak any European language and experience in speech or language coaching are definite advantages.

### Programmers (CODE: Prog-IT)

The Junior Programmers are expected to develop and test production software based on the clients' requirements. They will also generate daily output reports by extracting them from the database to validate veracity of reports made. They are also expected to troubleshoot software problems in the production floor and to check the condition of the software used by the agents and render advise to operations staff when needed. Ideal candidates for the position are IT-related course graduates, less than 25 years of age, who can develop internal software applications using the following technologies: *VB 6.0, VB Net, MS Access, Java, JavaScript, MSSQL7 or MSSQL2000 and ASP*. Familiarity with MSOffice and basic Internet technology is also a must. Previous experience in software development is a plus.

### IT Manager – Application Development (Code: ITAD-IT)

Oversees applications programming and analysis including developing, installing and maintaining application programs. Supervises the work of programmers. Leads in determining future software requirements, manages disaster recovery functions for Information systems. Supports other departments on their software and database requirements. The candidate must be a University graduate with at least 2 years experience in managerial capacity or 5 years supervisory experience acquired from an IT solutions/consulting environment and with solid foundation in using Microsoft platforms such as WINDOWS NT, SQL, MICROSOFT 2000. Knowledge in Oracle and/or Solaris, an advantage.

### IT Manager – Data Infrastructure (Code: ITDI-IT)

Manages the acquisition, installation and maintenance of the organization's hardware and telecoms requirements. Analyzes business needs and new technology, and recommends use of new products and services. Establishes and implements policies and procedures for infrastructure usage and security throughout the organization. Arranges and administers security measures to restrict unauthorized use of databases, and organizes off-site storage necessary for recovery processes, and oversees development of recovery procedures. The candidate must be a University graduate; must possess at least 2 years experience in managerial capacity or 5 years supervisory experience acquired from an IT solutions/consulting or Call Center environment; with solid foundation in using Microsoft platforms such as WINDOWS NT, SQL, MICROSOFT 2000. Knowledge in Oracle and/or Solaris, an advantage.

### IT Manager - Project Management (Code: ITPM-IT)

Oversees day-to-day responsibilities and deliverables. Manage multiple Advanced Technology software/systems development projects. Serve as point person and facilitate tasks required for successful project completion within the required timeline. Resolve issues or discrepancies within projects in a timely manner. Fulfill project reportorial requirements through use of standard project life cycle tools.The candidate must be a University graduate; must have 5 years project management experience; with solid foundation in using Microsoft platforms such as WINDOWS NT, SQL, MICROSOFT 2000. Knowledge in Oracle and/or Solaris, an advantage.

### LAN Technology Engineer (Code: LTE-IT)

The candidate will be responsible for the installation, monitoring and troubleshooting of computer peripherals and workstations. He must have a strong foundation in providing technical support (hardware and software): proficient in LAN/WAN, client server, and Windows 2000 environment. Must be a university/college degree holder in BS Computer Science/Engineering, and must be a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP).

### Telecomms Technician (CODE: TelTech-IT)

The candidate will be responsible for the maintainance and repair of telephone switchboards and related equipment. He must also have knowledge in network administration and computer hardware installation, troubleshooting and maintenance. Ideal candidates are graduates of at least two-year studies in college/vocational/trade course in telecommunications or other related course with at least 1-year experience as a telecommunications with licenses/certifications as Electronics Equipment Technician.

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resume indicating the position code to:

**GLOBALSTRIDE CUSTOMER SOLUTIONS**
**Attn: Human Resources Department**
**29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City**
**Email: jobs@webservasia.com.ph**
**Fax No: 911-8854**

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# ATTENTION

Graduate of Economics, Accounting, Banking & Finance, Mathematics, Political Science, Applied Physics, Psychology, Research Analyst, Management and other related academic discipline.

We are inviting a **MATURED, HONEST, INDEPENDENT, STRONG-WILLED** and **CAREER-ORIENTED** applicants to fill-up our job requirement of:

## 60 MARKET ANALYSTS

## 2 AUDIT CLERKS with experience

MARKET ANALYSTS shall have an opportunity to experience extensive training & seminar that will prepare for an EXCEPTIONAL CAREER MOVE in HK, Singapore, China, Tokyo and London. Both career and financial growth await successful applicants.

Submit your comprehensive resumé with a 2x2 ID picture, and your transcript of records not later than **January 15, 2003**. Applicants with complete requirements shall be entertained.

MK-111
c/o Classified Ads Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium of Makati Bldg.
Makati Avenue, Makati City

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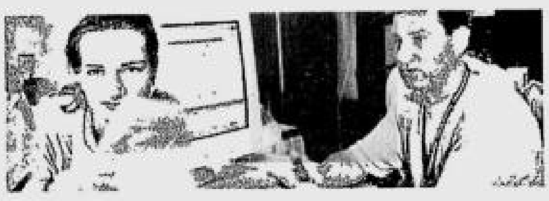
# SM

## NOW HIRING

**invites technically-skilled and career-oriented individuals to occupy the following positions:**



Interested parties may apply personally from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Personnel Department of the following SM Department Stores (Please follow schedule):

**SM Las Piñas - January 13-14, 2003**
**SM Bacoor - January 15-16, 2003**
**SM Ortigas - January 17-18, 2003**

Applicants may also apply for Monday to Friday or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

**The Recruitment Division Manager**
**SM Shoemart**
**SM Corporate Office; Building D**
**1000 Bay Boulevard**
**SM Central Business Park**
**Bay City, Pasay City Metro Manila**

Please bring 3 pcs 2x2 colored pictures with white background and photocop of your Transcript of Records and College Diploma together with the original copies.

**E-mail Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com**

### SELLING MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

female, not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with at least one (1) year experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity; personable and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively.

### WAREHOUSE MANAGER/ SUPERVISOR

male, not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with intensive experience in warehousing and other related functions preferably in retail business; able to lead and motivate staff and foster a team environment.

### TRAINING OFFICER

not over 32 years old; graduate of Education, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year busines course; at least two (2) years related work experience; knowledgeable in the conduct of training needs analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of training programs and activities related to behavior and skills of employees.

### PERSONNEL ANALYST

female, not over 30 years old; graduate of Economics, Behavioral Science, Management or Industrial Engineering; with at least three (3) years experience in research, organization development or personnel administration.

### ANALYST (Budget & Systems)

female, not over 32 years old; Certified Public Accountant (CPA); must have an eye for details; experience in research and analysis is an advantage

### ENGINEERING OFFICER

male, not over 30 years old; graduate of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering preferably licensed; with at least one (1) year supervisory experience in building operations/property management.

### CIVIL ENGINEER

not over 28 years old; licensed Engineer; with at least one (1) year work experience in construction project is an advantage.

### DESIGN OFFICER

not over 28 years old; graduate of Architecture, preferably licensed; knowledgeable in AUTOCADD application

### DISPLAY OFFICER

not over 28 years old; graduate of Fine Arts, Advertising or Interior Design or any 4-year related course; with at least one (1) year experience in visual merchandising.

### SECRETARY

not over 28 years old; graduate of Business Management or any 4-year Business course; with at least one (1) year related work experience; ability to organize and prioritize work load and able to meet deadlines.

### OFFICE ASSISTANTS
### Human Resource * Accounting * Treasury * Customer Service

female, not over 25 years old; graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Banking & Finance, Accountancy or Computer Science; personable, fast-learner and willing to work on extended hours.

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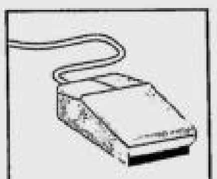

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**SYKES**℠

SYKES is one of the world's leading providers of end-to-end customer care management solutions – providing CRM solutions for many of the world's leading global companies.

## CCNA ENGINEERS

- CCNA Certification, a requirement
- Experienced in Networking configuration field preferably with knowledge in Dial technologies, TCP/IP, ISDN, and PPP Protocol
- Experienced in data communications and network installations
- Knowledge in WAN technologies such as CSU/DSU's, Frame relay with experience in network security including Radius and TACACS with extensive troubleshooting skills
- Customer service experience is a plus
- Possess strong decision making and problem solving skills
- Fluent in written and spoken English

As these are URGENT position vacancies, qualified applicants are requested to send their updated CV's to: SYKES ASIA, INC., 28F Robinson's Summit Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City or e-mail these to hrd@man.ph.sykes.com.

Highly competitive compensation package and Local/Regional Training await those who will be accepted.

Visit http://www.sykes.com for more information about the Company.

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SYKES is one of the world's leading providers of end-to-end customer care management solutions - providing CRM solutions for many of the world's leading global companies.

If you are dynamic, assertive, confident, self-motivated, customer oriented individuals and are interested to work on part-time -- Then we have the job for you!

## PART-TIME TELEMARKETERS

- Can work from 6:30AM to 1:30PM on Wednesday to Sunday
- Preferably with telemarketing experience
- Excellent English verbal communication and listening skills
- Good customer sales skills
- Computer Literate

**We offer the following to qualified applicants:**
- Lucrative basic salary
- Commissions and Incentives
- Excellent and Extensive Training (paid)

**SYKES**℠

Interested applicants are requested to send their updated CV's to the 28th Flr. Robinson Summit Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City or e-mail this to hrd@man.ph.sykes.com.

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# HR as Strategic Business Partner

From page F1

opportunities for both professional and financial growth like Mr. Donovan.

Also in the same conference, one of the delegates asked the CEOs whether they would be comfortable being replaced by an HR person in the future. The second CEO immediately quipped rather defensively, "If the HR person wants my job now, he can have it!", obviously alluding to the difficult nature of a CEO's job. The more subtle first CEO, however, said, "It seems to me that the most common concern among HR professionals is their lack of financial acumen; they could not interpret financial statements!"

This is partly true if we are to consider the fact that many HR professionals in the Philippines have risen from the ranks specializing in HR and likewise had Psychology, Behavioral Science, Management or Business Administration for their undergraduate studies. If HR is to be truly strategic, it has to go out of its way to know the business, including its financial condition.

In the Philippines, there are only a few HR practitioners who have become CEOs. To this day, the more common career path of HR professionals is a regional or headquarters post handling HR. There are several of them in this category.

All in all, HR has gone a long way from the time it emerged as a function.

**Humble Beginnings**

Truly, HR has metamorphosed from its humble beginnings dating back 1920 which is believed to be the year the HR function was born with the publication of the first discipline's textbook entitled Personnel Administration. Then starting in the 70's, the name Personnel

HR AS STRATEGIC/F5

Be part of a family of talented, driven and
service oriented professionals who have
FUN AT WORK!
Join us at Customer Contact Center, Inc.
a member of the Lopez group of companies

## Customer Service Associate

- ✓ Preferably a graduate of any 4-year Course
- ✓ Experience in Customer Service an advantage

## Multi-Lingual Customer Service Associate

- ✓ Preferably a graduate of any 4-year Course
- ✓ Urgent need: Fluent in EITHER Spanish, Deutsche, Mandarin, Malay, Hindi, Bahasa, Cantonese and Thai.

## Consumer Electronics Products Support

- ✓ Preferably a graduate of Computer Engineering, ECE, Computer Science or any related field.
- ✓ Preferably with background in basic hardware, software and general home electronics trouble shooting.

## Line Trainer

- ✓ At least 1 year training experience
- ✓ Preferably with Consumer Electronics / or Technical training background.
- ✓ Call Center and Customer Service experience an advantage.

## Team Leader

- ✓ Minimum of 6 months supervisory experience.
- ✓ At least 1 year work experience in a call center or any customer service field.
- ✓ Analytical / Problem solving skills.
- ✓ People Management, Coaching, Counselling skills.

## Shift Manager

- ✓ At least 1 year related experience in the Call Center Industry.
- ✓ Minimum of 1 year people management experience in a customer service environment.
- ✓ Leadership, Counselling and Coaching skills.
- ✓ Analytical and problem solving skills.

## Data Network Administrator

- ✓ Preferably a graduate of Computer Engineering, ECE, Computer Science or any related field.
- ✓ Must have 3 years experience in design and configuration of LAN/WAN and of data networking and communication on CISCO Devices including Voice Over IP set-up.

## Budget Analyst

- ✓ A graduate of Accounting/Finance or any related field.
- ✓ Preferably with experience in preparing monthly financial reports, annual budget and reforecasting.
- ✓ Must have knowledge in SAP, a financial management system.
- ✓ Proficient in MS Excel.

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST HAVE BOTH EXCELLENT ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS, CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS, BASIC KNOWLEDGE IN COMPUTER APPLICATIONS, PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS AND WILLING TO WORK ON NIGHT SHIFTS. ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY ON-LINE AT WWW.C-CUBESERVICES.COM OR HR@C-CUBESERVICES.COM OR BRING YOUR RESUMÉ AT I E-COMMERCE AVENUE, EASTWOOD CITY CYBERPARK, E. RODRIGUEZ JR. AVE., LIBIS, QUEZON CITY NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2003.**

---

## Global Cable TV

*Watch the World*

Broadcast and Community News Dept.
needs the following:

**Field Reporters and Production Assistants (code: 702)**

We are also in need of the following for personnel:

**Advertising Account Executives (code: 502)**
**Marketing Assistant Manager (code: 402)**
**Customer Service Assistant (code: 604)**
**Head-End Operator (code: 605)**

Must be a college graduate, hardworking, willing to start immediately. Applicants for code 605 must be licensed ECE. Indicate job code in application.

**Assistant Head Engineer (code: 302)**

Experienced in CATV Fiber Optic System, at least 5 years experience in Multi-Operation System or Medium Scale CATV Network.

Please send your comprehensive resumé until January 15 to:

**THE PROGRAMMING DEPARTMENT**
The Global Cable TV, Inc.
Gen. Mascardo corner M. Reyes, Bangkal,
Makati City

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## 4 COUNTRIES.
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Seminars are held every SATURDAY, 9am & 2pm. Bring with you an updated resume for evaluation. Avail of our Assessment and Consultation after the Seminar. Seminar Fee: P 350. Call for reservation.

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loc. 501, 502 or 503
**Fax No.:** 818 1055
**Email:** addpro@add.com.ph

*We are an immigration services company, not a placement agency.*

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THE *Arts* **COMMUNITY** NEEDS YOUR HELP
*badly!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

**Sales Person Needed:** *Interested in keeping the arts community alive and in making GOOD money in the process; a dynamic individual who is willing to help the community by actively and wholeheartedly SELLING for the arts.*

*We have great "art products" developed for Filipinos enjoyment and the enrichment of their spirit.*

**Work Experience :** at least 1.5 years in sales
**Age :** 25 years and up
**Sex :** Anyone can apply
**Language Spoken :** Fluent in Pilipino and English
**Skills :**

- Computer Literate most especially in Word Processing (PC or MAC)
- Great Interpersonal Skills (you must be a people person!)
- Fabulous Presentation Skills (confidence in speaking to a crowd or to a top executive is needed)

**Others :** Keeps updated with the trends of the market; Enjoys being presentable at all times; Mobile, Interested in meeting new people everyday; genuinely interested in supporting the arts

**Contact Person** : **Monica Llamas**
*Marketing and Sales Director – Arts Marketing Group*
**551-0221; 09175311995**

**Send resumes via :** E-mail : monicallamas@axti.com
Fax : 635-8901

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## WANTED

By a leading Forklift Distributor

## FOUR (4) FORKLIFT MECHANICS

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- ☛ Trade school or vocational graduate on auto/diesel mechanics course
- ☛ At least 2 years experience in Heavy Equipment repair/maintenance
- ☛ Possession of driver's license is an advantage but not required.

Successful applicants must be willing to accept field/provincial assignments.

**Apply at 2682 Hen. Cailles Street (near South Superhighway), Bangkal, Makati or Call Tel. 843-32-51/843-33-94 for appointment
Bring Biodata and 2 ID pictures**

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## WANTED

**One (1) Sales Executive (male or female)**

We are a company engaged in the processing and design of glasses used specifically for architectural and interior design purposes. Our product, developed 2 years ago using the latest technology from abroad, has gained wide acceptance and usage from prominent architects and interior designers in the country. We are currently looking for a Sales Executive to help expand our client base.

The ideal candidate should be:

- College graduate (graduate of interior design or fine arts an advantage)
- At least 2 years of work experience in related field
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills
- Self-motivated
- Computer literate
- Not more than 30 years old

Interested parties may send their resumés with photos through e-mail : alndv@yahoo.com

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## WANTED IMMEDIATELY

**A Marketing Company is in need of:**

### Female Account Executives

- single, not more than 30 years, college graduate
- self-starter, motivated, result-oriented, aggressive
- will handle corporate customers, field work
- basic salary / transportation allowance / commission

### Freelance Sales Agents

- male/female, any course, likes to sell
- wants to earn average income of P10,000 / month
- wants to have recurring monthly income
- wants to earn at the same time control their time

All applicants will undergo basic product sales training.

Please bring resumé with picture personally

**January 13-21, 2003 from 9 a.m. - 12 nn only
Unit 806, Enterprise Bldg., 524 Q. Paredes St.
Binondo (near Binondo Church) above Banco de Oro**

# HR as...

From page F3

Department began to disappear from corporate organization charts, replaced by Human Resources Department. While in some cases the name change was motivated more by fashion than values, it did mark the beginning of a philosophical shift. Personnel was a loose collection of functions relating to people. Human resources looks at people as an organizational resource and focuses on maximizing that resource's contribution to the organization's success. Beginning year 2000, there was even a shift in the terminology used from human resources to human capital to emphasize that people are not just assets which organizations can use or misuse at will but rather a vital investment. Truly, the role of HR from being a personnel records keeper and picnic planner has gone a long, long way from its simple beginnings.

### The New Century HR Opportunities and Challenges

HR confronts a number of opportunities and challenges carrying over from the 20th Century. The following top the list:

HR AS / F7

## TECHNICAL TRAINING ASST. MANAGER

- Graduate of Engineering, Management, Psychology or related courses
- Familiar with the entire training processes
- At least two years Asst. Manager experience or four years Supervisory experience in training
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Can design, develop and conduct training programs
- Female, age limit is 33

## ENGINEERING GRADUATES BATCH 2002

- Licensed Electrical, Mechanical, ECE, and Industrial Engineering graduates
- Should possess leadership qualities, are team-players and hardworking
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Male or Female, age limit is 23

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- At least 3 years similar experience preferably in a multinational company reporting to a senior executive
- Graduate of a 4-year course, preferably in Management or Administration
- Possesses leadership qualities and the ability to deal with all levels in the organization
- With pleasing personality and excellent communication skills
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, age limit is 35

## PRODUCTION DATA CONTROL SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of any Engineering or Business course
- Knowledgeable in parts and data movements
- Exposure in planning and material control systems
- At least 3 years similar experience in a semiconductor/ electronics company
- Possesses good oral and written communication skills, logical, analytical and is an effective leader
- Male or Female, ages 28-32

## COMPANY NURSES

- Will be responsible for the curative, palliative, preventive, rehabilitative and administrative aspects of employees' health care.
- Graduates of BS Nursing, licensed
- Must be service-oriented and willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, age limit is 27

## PLANNING ASSISTANTS

- Graduates of any Business Course
- Preferably with background in production planning, materials control and inventory
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Male or Female, age limit is 25

## OFFICE CLERK

- Graduate of a 2-year computer course or Business Administration undergraduate
- Preferably with experience in performing clerical functions
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, age limit is 23

*Fujitsu Computer Products is a leading manufacturer of hard disk drives and magneto-resistive heads. After almost seven years of commercial operations, we now have 6,500 employees. We were awarded by PEZA as Top Employer Hall of Fame by being Top Employer for the years 1997 to 1999. Successful candidates will be based in Canlubang, Laguna. Shuttle buses to and from the site are available for Metro Manila residents. Please send your resumes to: The Assistant Vice President, HR& General Affairs Department, Fujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines, SEPZ, Carmelray Industrial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna, or email to: recruit@fcpp.fujitsu.com or you may also apply personally in business attire, every M-W-F at 9 AM.*

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**Filadams Pharma, Inc.**

37 Mapagkumbaba cor. Malipid Sts., Sikatuna Village, Q.C.

welcomes qualified

## DISTRIBUTORS

for the following areas:

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**Batangas**
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**Davao Province/North Cotabato**
**Negros Oriental**

Interested parties may contact **Mr. Ping Teneclo**
At Tel. No. **922-2284**, Telefax No. **921-0868**

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THE MAGIC GOES ON

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*products phils., inc.*
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- **Salesmen, Account Executives & Sales Coordinators**
  For:
  - Hotels, Restaurants, Fast Food Eateries, etc.
  - Hospitals, Diagnostic Clinics, Doctors Offices, etc.
  - Department Stores, Bookstores, Religious Stores, School Supplies, Office Supplies
  - Schools, Colleges, Universities, etc.
  - Corporate Give-aways, Souvenirs & Gifts
- **Seminar Coordinator**
- **Bookkeeper** – w/ at least 2 years experience

**Magiclip** – WINNER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS FILIPINO INVENTOR'S AWARD
Developed in the United States and now marketed nationwide.
Those interested in making **P20,000** or more a month
Apply in person (Monday or Tuesday, 3:00 PM) or send resume to:

**Magiclip Products Phils., Inc.**
Suite 410 Sunrise Condo. 1 Bldg., Ortigas Ave. 1502 Greenhills, San Juan, MM
Tels: 722-9427 or 721-2671 Fax: 722-1606 E-mail: magiclip@pacific.net.ph

(Dealers/Independent Business Owners are welcomed)

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## URGENTLY NEEDED
### FOR A HIGH-END SPA IN MAKATI

1. **Facial Technicians & Body Therapists.** M/F, college graduate of Nursing, PT or any medical-related course, age 20-40, w/or w/o experience, English conversant, capable of multi-tasking, willing to be trained here & abroad as world-class aestheticians and massage therapists.
2. **Frontliners.** Female, age 23 above, English conversant, w/ pleasing personality, loves dealing w/ people, capable of multi-tasking, w/ experience in sales & marketing.

Submit your resumé or bio-data with a recent 2x2 colored photo personally at:

8/F Pearlbank Center, 146 Valero St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
9:00 a.m.-12:00 n.n. (Monday-Friday)

---

RCG INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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delivery excellence

## In an industry that won't stand still, choose a Company that's on the move...

If you think the only way to keep up with the ever-evolving IT industry is to constantly search for a new employer, think again. Look instead for a leader in IT professional services dedicated to helping clients transform their business – a company like RCG Information Technology.

With nearly 30 years of experience, 1,000 consultants, and 10 offices across the United States and in the Philippines, RCG IT is proud to count among its clients more than 300 companies in virtually every industry including members of *Fortune 100.* The services we provide span the full range of IT architectures and disciplines.

As part of our continuing expansion, our offshore development center in the Philippines, RCG Information Technology Philippines, Inc. (RCG Philippines) is looking for highly qualified project managers and systems analysts/programmers. You best fit our requirements if you have the following qualifications:

- A degree in computer science, math, computer engineering, industrial engineering or related engineering courses
- **Project Managers** should have at least ten years of total working experience in information technology, five of which were spent in project management. Must have experience in managing teams of at least 15-20 people under the full project life cycle. Experience in business development, requirements analysis and proposal preparation a must. Familiarity with project management tools, UML and RUP are plus factors.
- **Systems analysts/programmers** should have at least 3 years of total IT experience. Must have technical proficiency in any set of or combination of the following applications under a UNIX and Windows environment:
  - ✓ Business Intelligence/Data Warehousing with a good exposure to tools such as Informatica, Microstrategy, Brio, Cognos, Ascential and/or Business Objects and a strong RDBMS background
  - ✓ VB.Net, Visual Studio.Net with WebMethods
  - ✓ J2EE, Java, Java Servlets, JSP, Swing, JDBC, EJB with Websphere, UML and Rational Rose
  - ✓ Oracle 9i/8i, Oracle Developer 6i/2000, PL/SQL with experience in creating stored procedures and database triggers, and scripting
  - ✓ C/C++, Visual C++, C# with experience in SQL programming

Successful candidates may look forward to a competitive employment package, overseas assignments, and a rewarding career path program. If you think you meet the above qualifications, please send your comprehensive resume and photo to:

**RCG Information Technology Philippines, Inc.**
3/F, First Life Center, 174 Salcedo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200
Fax No. (632) 893-2322 ext. 100
E-mail: jobs@rcgitmanila.com

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VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB MARKET

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

INQUIRER

# INCOHO

www.incohoinc.ph

We are looking for dynamic and creative people to join our team!

INCOHO is looking for energetic individuals with a positive outlook in life and a thirst for challenges to do collections for Philippine and US-based clients. If you are all of these, then you are the person we want! Send your resume with a cover letter and a copy of your transcript of records to hr@incohoinc.ph or to our mailing address below.

## Commercial Credit and Collection Manager (1) (for US-based Clients)

- At least 2 years managerial experience, preferably in credit & collection
- Masters degree in Business Administration is an advantage
- Excellent English communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong analytical, negotiation, and marketing skills
- Outstanding customer service orientation
- Willing to work on a multi-shift environment
- US customer-contact experience is an advantage

## Collection Officers (50 for Philippine-based Clients; 20 for US-based Clients)

- Four-year college degree
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Exceptional problem-solving and strong negotiation abilities
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office
- Ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously
- Must have a strong tolerance to pressure and willing to work in a start-up environment
- Willing to work on a multi-shift environment
- US customer-contact experience is an advantage
- Experience in recovery collections will also be an advantage

***Qualified candidates will be asked to complete the following:***

- Multi-media test in English language proficiency
- Problem solving and negotiation skills tests
- Interview on key competency areas
- Reference and background checks

***For successful candidates, we offer the following:***

- Highly competitive salary PLUS performance-based incentives and bonus
- Medical and dental insurances
- Comprehensive and ongoing training programs
- Working environment that is vibrant, friendly, and highly respectful of the individual

Mailing Address
Incoho Philippines, Inc.
3F Bonifacio Technology Center
31st Street corner 2nd Avenue
Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila
Attention: Director, Recruitment and Training

---

# Mc Graw Hill Education

*McGraw-Hill Education (Asia), the global leader in professional publishing for business, government, industry and medical markets invites suitable candidates for the following position:*

## *MARKETING EXECUTIVE*

*The above position will report to the General Manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for the marketing and promotion of higher education, school and medical titles.*

*REQUIREMENTS:*

- Business or Business-related graduates with minimum 2 years sales/marketing experience
- Fluent in English with good oral and written skills
- Proficient in MS Office
- Has initintive and able to work under minimum supervision
- Aggressive and able to work under pressure
- Highly motivated, self starter and a team player
- Ability and flexibility required to work hours to suit operational requirements
- With valid driver's license

*BENEFITS:*

We offer an attractive remuneration and benefits package including training, overseas conference trips and opportunities to grow with the company

All applicants will be treated in strictest confidence. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified. Please submit your resumé with recent 2 x 2 colored photo along with your salary history and expectation before January 24, 2003 to:

*The General Manager*
*McGraw-Hill IEI (Phils.)*
*Unit 1503 Jollibee Plaza Condominium*
*Emerald Avenue corner Ruby Street*
*Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600*
*E-mail: mghphils@mcgraw-hill.com.ph*
*Website: www.mcgraw-hill.com*

Please do not hand-carry your application.
Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

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A YOUNG AND DYNAMIC COMPANY
Engaged in cosmetic equipment sales is looking for:

## ONE (1) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST

Qualifications:

- ➢ Graduate of any 4-year course: paramedical in nature, an advantage
- ➢ At least 2 years sales experience preferably in cosmetic market
- ➢ Can work with least supervision
- ➢ Hardworking and persevering
- ➢ Aggressive and dynamic

## ONE (1) TECHNICAL SUPPORT STAFF

Qualifications:

- Must at least reach collegiate level or graduate of any 2-year vocational course
- Hardworking and persevering
- Technical know-how in medical equipment, an advantage
- Must have a valid driver's license

Please send resumé at : Unit 717 City and Land Megaplaza
ADB Avenue corner Garnet Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Telephone: 688-8422 (Contact: Anna)
or fax to : Telefax: 687-2695
E-mail address : radiancyphils@pacific.net.ph

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**British High Commission Singapore**

seeks

High quality applicants, with appropriate experience and qualifications, good spoken English and under 45 years of age for:

## COOK and ASSISTANT COOK

Each should have experience in western cooking and catering for large occasions (up to several hundred people). Actual salary would depend on age, experience and ability, with a maximum Singapore $ equivalent of Pesos 60,000.00 for Cook and 30,000.00 for Assistant Cook.

## BUTLER

Needs to have relevant previous experience and be educated to a good standard. Actual salary would depend on age, experience and ability, with a maximum Singapore $ equivalent of Pesos 50,000.00.

## GARDENER/HANDYMAN

Actual salary would depend on age, experience and ability, with a maximum Singapore $ equivalent to Pesos 25,000.00.

## MAID

Actual salary would depend on age, experience and ability, with a maximum Singapore $ equivalent of Pesos 18,000.00.

**There will be an annual bonus of two months' salary. Free accommodation to good standard provided and free passage from Manila to Singapore.**

Deadline for applications is **20 January 2003.** Applicants must submit full curriculum vitae, 2 x2 photograph and contact telephone number to

Management Officer (AA)
British Embassy
17/F L V Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226

Enquiries about these vacancies will not be entertained. Applicants should be available for interview in Manila from **27 January 2003.** References will be taken up and NBI clearance required before appointments are confirmed. Only successful applicants will be notified.

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## EXPERIENCED SALES EXECUTIVES FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Our company, involved with several Multi-National Companies Worldwide, and a Current Market Leader in our industry, is in need of highly qualified and experienced Sales Executives to fill up our on-going Sales & Marketing expansion program. This is an urgent corporate requirement that must be hired and trained immediately.

**Qualifications:**

1. With at least 5 years of Sales experience in any product line and company
2. Preferably female with good oral/written communication skills and with strong interpersonal skills with clients.
3. Must be at least 25 but no more than 35 years of age with any college degree.

All interested parties must send a complete resumé with photo to **c/o P.O. Box KA-001-03 UM, Philippine Daily Inquirer, G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila** no later than January 25. All candidates who pass initial screening shall be scheduled for immediate interview and hired for the month of February. An attractive compensation package shall await all those who qualify.

---

WANTED

## SALES AGENT

**Requirements:**

- College graduate of any college course
- Not more than 39 years old
- With good written and verbal communication skills
- Team player, capable of handling multi-task
- Computer literate
- Can work with less supervision
- Must be responsible, honest, hardworking, willing to learn
- Must have initiative, ability, and sustained interest in selling
- Willing to do fieldwork

*Qualified candidates are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé thru handcarry, mail, or e-mail not later than **January 15, 2003** to:*

ASIA FOOD CANNING MANUFACTURING
653 J.P. Rizal St., Concepcion Marikina City
E-mail address: afcmph@yahoo.com

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## UP-TOWN INDUSTRIAL SALES, INC.

The country's largest construction, automotive supplies and industrial marketing organization today, is in search of aggressive self-driven individuals to fill-up the following positions:

### SALES/TECHNICAL ENGINEER

(Can make Php 30,000/month or more)

- Engineering or Technical course graduate, between 25 to 45 years old.
- To handle technical aspect, sales and promotion of general industrial products, Forklift and Environmental equipments.
- To be assigned in Manila, Bacolod, Cebu, Davao or Ormoc

### HARDWARE FIELD SALESMAN

(Can make Php 20,000/month or more)

- College graduate, between 25 to 45 years old.
- Hardware sales or purchasing experience required.

### BOILER SERVICE ENGINEER

- Mechanical Engineering or Technical course graduate, between 25 to 45 years old.
- Experience in boiler operation, troubleshooting and servicing required.
- Computer literate.

Interested applicants may hand-carry, mail or e-mail their resume with recent photo to:
**HUMAN RESOURCES DEV'T DEPARTMENT**
Up-Town Bldg., 56-58 Madison St., 1554 Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 6327809/6364834/6318366 to 75
Fax No. 6315290/6315296 E-mail: uptown@uptown.com.ph

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**Thermal Solutions, Inc. engaged in Industrial Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Trading & Services is in need of:**

## BOOKKEEPER (for immediate hiring)

- must be an Accounting graduate
- 2-3 years experience
- possesses good working attitude and highly motivated

Please submit your resumé together with your Transcript of Records and any other information you may feel is useful. Please send application with 2x2 ID picture in sealed envelope and address to the General Manager.

**Other requirements:**
For manpower pooling only.

- A/C Technician, male (5 years & above experience)
- Sales Engineer, Male/Female (fresh graduate of Mechanical Engineering)

**Thermal Solutions, Inc.**
1006 Page 1 Bldg. 1215 Acacia Ave.
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang
Muntinlupa City

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**A young and dynamic IT Distribution Company in Makati is urgently in need of:**

## GRAPHIC ARTIST

- 21 to 28 years old
- Male or Female, candidates of good moral character, energetic, hardworking
- Graduate with a degree in any arts/design related course
- Has the ability to strategize, conceptualize, plan, develop and execute creative materials
- Has experience in dealing with printers
- Has an impressive creative work portfolio
- In-depth knowledge in Photoshop, CorelDraw and Illustrator
- Capable of working under pressure

Due to the urgency of the position, interested applicant should send the resumé and portfolio to **1203 Global Tower Gen. Mascardo cor. M. Reyes Sts., Bangkal, Makati** or e-mail them (resumé only) to hason@mydestiny.net or hason@justeditcafe.com.

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U.S. CERTIFIED *Be a Nurse Assistant! One of the fastest growing careers in the U.S. and Canada!*

## BASIC NURSE ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM

3 Months Only!

- **Patterned after the C.N.A. Training Program of our affiliate school, OMEGA Healthcare Technical School (1717 Howard St., Evanston, Illinois, USA 60202)**
- **TESDA Registered - TVET Program Registration NTR0213032018 (First in NCR)**
- **Finish the program in 3 months only!**

***REQUIREMENTS:***
**Submit 2 2"x2" photos**
**Bring photocopies of HS and college transcripts (at least 1 yr. of college)**

***LIMITED SLOTS AVAILABLE***
**CALL NOW !**
**806-8833 803-7161**

SERTO-OMEGA
TRAINING AND REVIEW CENTER
**31-A Love St., St. Joseph Subd.**
**Las Piñas, Metro Manila**
**(bet. Southmall and AlabangTown Center)**

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CYBERSOFT DATA NETWORKS, INC.

## URGENT HIRING!!!

## Junior PROGRAMMER

Develop applications using Foxpro for DOS, Visual Foxpro, Visual Basic...

General Qualifications:

- ✓ M/F; 23-35 yrs. old
- ✓ Must be a graduate of Com. Sci./Com. Eng'g or other IT related courses
- ✓ With minimum 2 years related working experience
- ✓ Knowledge in Linux is an advantage
- ✓ Flexible, hardworking, trainable, resourceful, and with good interpersonal & communication skills

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume with latest photo to:
**Personnel Department**
**7/F Pacific Corporate Center, 131 West Avenue, Quezon City**
Note: Walk-in applicants will not be entertained;
Qualified applicants will be scheduled for written and hands-on exam

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## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

An importer and exclusive distributor of several tire and motor oil brands has an urgent need for:

## COLLECTOR

- ❖ Male, 25 to 35 years old, College level
- ❖ Honest and hardworking
- ❖ With relevant experience in collection of Trade/Account Receivables
- ❖ Must be familiar with the streets of Metro Manila and surrounding provinces. Professional driver's license holder with experience in driving a motorcycle.

APPLICANTS MAY APPLY IN PERSON OR MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉS WITH PICTURE TO:

**TASCO, INC.**
**No. 70, 20th Avenue, Murphy, Quezon City**
**Phone Nos. 911-6207; 911-8891**

# HR as ...

From page F5

- Recruiting and retaining talent worldwide.
- Developing global leaders who are capable of thinking, acting and inspiring people in a knowledge-based economy.
- Increasing HR's role as a strategic business partner.

### *Strategic Business Partner Defined*

*In order to set the right perspective, a strategic partner is a unit within the organization that has a meaningful voice in establishing and implementing organizational strategy.*

*In a recent survey of HR leaders in 50 top global companies by the Society for Human Resource Management Global Forum, nearly all of the respondents said that they were involved in strategic decision-making. That involvement often takes the form of participation in the company's strategy team. A typical human resource professional reports to the CEO and is usually a part of the management team.*

### *What Does it Take to be a Strategic Business Partner?*

*Dave Ulrich in his book "Human Resource Champions" identified the challenges of HR in becoming a strategic partner and I would like to venture into summarizing them:*

*1. By facilitating organizational diagnosis, HR turns strategies into actions. HR should take the lead in diagnosing the company and its operations by looking into the effectiveness of the existing structure, systems, processes, procedures, people's competencies, working environment, employee morale, etc. By pinpointing the areas of improvement of the company, HR can effectively recommend to the CEO ways and means for the company to succeed and flourish in a highly competitive environment.*

*2. HR should focus on a balanced scorecard by paying attention not only to meeting employees' expectations but also to coping with the financial and customer issues vis-à-vis organizational goals. HR should be able to demonstrate in equal terms as its counterparts in finance and marketing the ability to look into the financial side of the business in terms of, for instance, effectively managing costs and expenses. Moreover, HR should plan and implement programs not only with employees in mind but also the company's customers. For example, what is the profile of Account Managers that it should hire, taking into account the customers' requirements and expectations.*

*3. HR's plans should be aligned with the business plans. HR professionals should focus on how the HR function can add value to the business. HR should be able to come up with cutting-edge programs which have a big impact on the organization. It should be able to initiate programs that will significantly impact on the company's profitability and will increase productivity, improve operations and save the company money. HR has always been perceived as a cost center.*

*This impression can be changed if HR will take the lead role in judiciously managing the costs and expenses of the organization while at the same time, looking for creative ways to contribute to the organization's profitability.*

*4. In the process of benchmarking with other companies, HR should not use the information as a standard but only as a baseline. It is not merely benchmarking to find out what other companies do in order to duplicate their best practices but more so for the company HR represents to do better. HR should not make the mistake of benchmarking only for the purpose of following the lead of other companies which have done well. It should be able to understand and embrace the lessons learned from other companies and then strive to outperform these companies by coming up with significant modifications on the best practices adopted.*

HR AS p/F8

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## IIRR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is a global intermediary development organization working in several countries with the poor and their communities as our partner, enabling them to improve their lives and achieve their full potential. At present, IIRR is seeking to fill the following posts:

### Communication Specialist

Reporting to the Head, Publication and Communication Program, the post will contribute to the expanding work of IIRR in the documentation and communication of development learning, and in the production of Information, Education and Communication materials for field development programs. The role will involve documenting experiences from the learning community program as inputs to developing communication strategies and Information, Education and Communication materials (including videos, posters, booklets, pamphlets, brochures, etc.) in support of IIRR's field programs in Asia. The successful candidate should have the following: a degree, preferably master's degree, in Development Communication, Sociology, Rural Development, or any related fields; at least 3 years of comparable work experience in development communication with international development agencies, NGOs or with rural communities; ability to work productively in teams; effective writing and communication skills; and with professional research experience, preferably in action research.

### Training Specialist

Reporting to the Head, Education & Training Program, the Training Specialist will ensure the development and effective implementation of international training courses, customized training and study programs, international workshops and conferences. In coordination with technical and management staff, the Training Specialist is responsible for designing systems, procedures and conceptual and operational frameworks for the development of specific technical areas relevant to IIRR's education and training program thrusts. The successful candidate should have the following: a degree in education, community development, rural development, agriculture, natural resource management, health, nutrition or other disciplines relevant to IIRR programs (master's degree preferred); minimum of 5 years experience in education and training, preferably from an international, multi-cultural work environment; at least 3 years experience in development work in community education, monitoring and evaluation, health and nutrition, participatory approaches and tools, agriculture extension, gender and development, sustainable livelihood or other related fields; excellent oral and written English skills; strong interpersonal skills and an effective team player.

### Training Associate

The Training Associate is responsible for promoting IIRR's international training courses and course participant recruitment. Working with course teams, the Training Associate contributes to preparations for international training courses, study programs and customized training courses, and supports resource persons and course teams through session preparation and facilitation of field/agency visits and practicum courses. The Training Associate reports directly to the Head, Education & Training Program. The successful candidate should have: a degree in education, community development, rural development, agriculture, natural resource management, health, nutrition or other disciplines relevant to IIRR programs; at least 3 years of relevant training experience, preferably from a multi-cultural setting; excellent oral and written English skills; strong interpersonal skills; and an effective team player.

### Human Resources Associate

Reporting to the Director of Human Resources, the Human Resources Associate is responsible for implementing human resource activities related to employment/staffing, benefits administration, staff development, performance management and other functional areas in accordance with the human resource management policies and plans. The Human Resources Associate will also contribute to initiatives to address specific HR concerns at the IIRR's headquarters and the regional centers. The successful candidate should have the following: a degree in Psychology, Human Resources Management, Law, or other relevant discipline; 3 years of responsible experience in a similar capacity, preferably from a development organization or a multi-cultural work environment; computer skills, especially on Microsoft Office and human resource information system; working knowledge of human resource systems such as job analysis, staff training & development, and performance management; and demonstrated capacity to perform multiple assignments requiring the use of judgment, objectivity and confidentiality.

### Head, Conference Facilities Unit

The Head, Conference Facilities Unit is responsible for planning, coordinating and supervising the effective operation, maintenance and promotion of IIRR's conference facilities at the Y. C. James Yen Center. In coordination with the management team, the post will ensure standards of quality, efficiency and cost effectiveness in providing dining services, hostel and conference facilities to international training course participants, guests and staff of IIRR. The successful candidate should have the following: a degree in hotel and restaurant management, business administration of other related discipline; at least 5 years experience in hotel and restaurant or other related operations, 2 years of which in a managerial capacity; effective oral and written English skills; with experience from a multi-cultural or NGO setting; and demonstrated ability to develop and implement systems to contiuously improve service quality and operating efficiency.

These posts are based in Silang, Cavite. Qualified applicants should send a letter of interest not later than February 5, 2003, together with curriculum vitae; contact information, three letters of references with addresses and contact numbers; a recent passport-size photograph, and transcript of records to:

**The Human Resources Office**
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
Km. 39, Aguinaldo Highway, Silang, 4118, Cavite
Tel: (046) 414-2417; Fax: (046) 414-2420
E-Mail: HumanResources@iirr.org , or visit our website: www.iirr.org

***IIRR is an equal opportunity employer.***

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## UPLiFT Philippines

**Urban Program for Livelihood Finance & Training (UPLIFT)**

A Filipino Non-Government Organization specialized in Micro-Finance with community-based programs in Caloocan, Manila, Quezon Cities and Bulacan (San Jose del Monte City), and a Network of 10 NGOs operating in Luzon and Visayas, is in need of:

**IN CALOOCAN PROGRAM**

**SOCIAL WORKER (SW)**

- Must be a licensed Social Worker and computer literate, fluent in English
- Experience in social services, primary health care and psycho-social will be an advantage
- With initiative, creativity, good in community organizing and networking

**IN MANILA PROGRAMS**

**FIELD OPERATIONS MANAGER (FOM)**

- Graduate of Community Development Course or any 4-year business course
- Experience in Micro-finance is an advantage
- Autonomous, dynamic, with excellent human relation skills to manage an enthusiastic team
- Computer literate, good communication skills, written and verbal

**IN RESOURCE UNIT** – ***Based in Caloocan, this unit provides expertise to the operational programs.***

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT (FAA)**

- Assists Finance and Admin. Manager on accounting, treasury and IT matters.
- Upgrades policies and systems, provides training to UPLIFT staff.
- Accounting or Business course, CPA or IT degree is an advantage, like experience in micro-finance or banking
- Autonomous, dynamic, ready for challenge in a complex environment.

**INTERNAL AUDITOR (IA)**

- BS Accountancy graduate, computer literate, good communication skills, written and verbal
- Analytical, resourceful and can work under minimal supervision
- Experience related to the position is an advantage especially in a micro-finance set up
- Enthusiasm to audit complex accounts, even in the depressed areas

**COMMUNICATION & FUND SOURCING COORDINATOR (CFSC)**

- In-charge of external communication and fund raising for all UPLIFT
- Excellent communication skills, written and verbal (English), can work autonomously
- Proficiency at least in Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Preferably graduate in Communication or Marketing course

**IN NETWORK UNIT** – ***Based in Caloocan, members of this unit must be willing to travel in Manila and provinces.***

**FINANCE & ADMIN MANAGER (FAM)**

*Mission: Give support, consultation and training on IT, Finance and accounting for member-NGOs*

- Ability to handle people and establish good coordination with the NGO members
- BS Accountancy Graduate, good in financial statement analysis, in IT and Fund Sourcing
- Good Communication skills, written and verbal, creative, resourceful and can work under minimal supervision

**FINANCE & ACCTG. COORDINATOR (FAC)**

*Mission: Train and assist the member-organizations in setting up a good Accounting and Financial Management System*

- Good communications skills, written and verbal, good financial/accounting skills
- BS Accountancy Graduate, computer literate
- Ability to establish and create good relations with the NGO members of the Network specifically for finance purposes

**OPERATIONS MANAGER (OM)**

*Mission: To supervise and organize the training of 10 NGOs implementing UPLIFT Micro Finance services*

- Business Course Graduate, good communication skills, creative, resourceful and can work under minimal supervision
- Ability to handle a team directly working with the member NGOs/ has a good analytical skills
- Knowledge in micro finance is a big advantage, willing to constantly travel in and outside Manila areas

**BOOKKEEPER (BK)** – ***for Navotas/Bulacan area***

*Mission: To set-up accounting and perform financial analysis for a micro finance program*

- BS Accountancy Graduate
- Autonomous, can work with very minimal supervision
- With very good accounting skills

**FIELD COORDINATORS (FC)** – ***for Cebu, Bulacan and Malabon City areas***

*Missions:* FOR CEBU – *coordinate member-NGOs in Cebu and training of new members in the Visayas.*
FOR BULACAN & MALABON – *supervise the operations of a microfinance program*

- With good human relation skills, willing to be trained
- Communication, Business Graduate or any related course
- Knowledgeable in Micro Finance, good understanding of Cebuano Language (For Cebu Coordinator)

(Residents in Cebu, please forward applications to Miss Nelly Majadillas of Bidlisiw Foundation; e-mail: bidlisiw@mozcom.com)

***ALL APPLICANTS MUST SHOW DEEP SOCIAL COMMITMENT AND A STRONG MOTIVATION TO WORK WITH AN NGO WHERE THE MAIN REWARD IS THE FULLFILMENT TO WORK WITH YOUNG AND PASSIONATE PEOPLE TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION OF MORE THAN 20,000 FAMILIES IN THE MOST DEPRESSED COMMUNITIES.***

Address:
HRD, UPLiFT Phils., Inc.
#172 A. Mabini Street
Maypajo, Caloocan City
e-mail:recruit@uplift.org.ph

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Rx MEDICard

## MEDICard Philippines Inc.

One of the countries leading HMO is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

### *LIAISON OFFICERS, CALL CENTER AGENTS and CUSTOMER RELATIONS ASSISTANTS*

- Graduate of any Medical Related Courses
- Male and Female, 21-29 years old
- Must be flexible, service-oriented and with above average communication skills
- Computer literate and willing to do field work.

### *HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT*

- Female, not more than 25 years of age
- Graduate of BS Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course
- Knowledgeable in all facets of Human Resources
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience
- With excellent oral and written communication skills.

### *GENERAL CLERKS*

- Male/Female, not more than 25 years of age
- Graduate of any Business Course
- Proficient in the use of MS Word and Excel

*We are also in need of Registered Nurses and Medical Technologists with at least 6 months work experience.*

***Qualified and interested applicants are requested to submit resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture at:***

***MEDICard Philippines, Inc.***
***Human Resources Department***
***8/F The World Centre Building,***
***330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City,***
***Email us at: amamatra@medicardphils.com***

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Crêpes de france. Paris

## Crepes de France, Phils., Inc.

Exclusive License Holder, Master Franchise Company of Crepes de France, Paris in the Philippines Territory

Location: 3rd Floor Rockwell PowerPlant Mall, Makati City (near the cinemas)
Telefax: 898-2577

## NOW HIRING !!!

*We are looking for people for the following positions:*

- Cooks, Kitchen Crew
- Head Waiters / Waiters or Dining Staff
- Beverage / Ice Cream Staff
- Cashiers / Secretary / Purchaser
- Store Supervisor / Manager

PREFERABLY:
- WITH 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE FOOD BUSINESS
- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH
- W/ GOOD MORAL CHARACTER & PLEASING PERSONALITY

**We accept FULL-TIMERS & PART-TIMERS**

---

## Performance Group of Companies

Singapore · Philippines · Japan · Taiwan · China
British Virgin Islands · New York · Korea · Malaysia

**PERFORMANCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE CORPORATION (PFEC)** is a diversified financial services entity with innovative products and services providing financial investment opportunities to individuals, group investors and corporate institutions.

Due to our **URGENT EXPANSION**, we are currently looking for **Fresh Candidates** to join us as **part-time** and/or **full-time:**

### BUSINESS RELATIONS OFFICERS

As a **BRO**, you are expected to develop, implement and maintain a financial strategy for the client with all resources available to serve clients professionally. Adequate training and efficiency empowerment will be provided to help you stay at the forefront of changes in the financial industry.

Being a true specialist in the industry, we seek committed individuals with the following requirements:

☐ must be a college graduate of any course
☐ with pleasing personality
☐ must have superior and analytical skills
☐ can work with less supervision
☐ excellent communication skills
☐ computer literate
☐ strong leadership qualities and a team player
☐ chinese speaking is an advantage
☐ with outstanding work experience in **banking and finance** or **sales and marketing**, an advantage

The successful candidate can look forward to a rewarding career with an excellent financial package that includes:

☐ negotiable monthly remuneration
☐ commissions in U.S. dollars
☐ performance bonuses
☐ various allowances
☐ incentives and opportunities to travel abroad

We are also looking for:

**MARKETING SECRETARY** — **RECEPTIONIST**

Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply.

If you think you possess the above mentioned qualifications and competence, please apply in person with your comprehensive resume and a recent 2 x 2 photo to:

**The Enterprise Center**
**Mezzanine Floor, Tower2**
Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City
**Look for: Nina**

This is an **URGENT REQUIREMENT**. Qualified candidates are requested to come in business attire between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. starting January 13, 2003.

# Hotel exec mixes successful blend of people, money management skills

**By Rochelle Leonor**

**HR Focus**

CAN oil and water mix? Is it possible to be an effective head of two seemingly different departments of an organization such as accounting and human resources? Usually, managing people and money don't go together. But apparently, Alan Gomez Lee is able to blend both functions well. He is both comptroller and officer-in-charge of the personnel department of Century Park Hotel.

### All-around guy

As comptroller, his main responsibility is to come up with financial reports every end of the month. He makes sure that all data are correct. He also monitors the hotel's expenses, purchases, accounts receivables, etc. As OIC of personnel, meanwhile, he is responsible for all personnel matters like hiring, interviews and benefits, among others.

> *As comptroller, he gets a kick out of analyzing figures. As OIC, he gets to hone his interpersonal skills*

Lee says he doesn't find it difficult to head two departments. "I am basically dealing with the same people," he reasons. He says his job trains him to be a well-rounded person. As comptroller, he gets a kick out of analyzing figures. As OIC, he gets to hone his interpersonal skills.

He says the biggest challenge for him is to control expenses to make the hotel profitable, especially since the tourism industry is facing challenging times. Even if it's just a small profit, Lee says this makes him satisfied. This also means trying to keep the employees happy. "I have to try give the best possible means of livelihood to our employees," he says.

### Hotel challenges

Century Park Hotel is situated in Manila. It has been operating since September 1976, and has 448 employees. It has 500 guests rooms and suites, and boasts of various amenities, facilities and security features. Century Park Hotel used to be connected with All Nikkon Airways (ANA). Although it is still part owner of the hotel, it no longer manages the hotel properties. Presently, Century is owned and managed by Maranaw Hotels and Resort Corporation.

Lee believes that the hotel's edge over the others is its local tourist thrust. Because of travel advisories cautioning foreigners in visiting the country, Lee says that the market is more locally driven. "While Makati hotels are mainly for expatriates, bay area hotels are more for tourists," he compares. Majority of Century's clientele are Filipinos and Koreans.

To help the ailing tourism industry, Century Park Hotel is also doing its fair share. "We have travel blitzes to other countries like Singapore, Japan, etc," he says. Lee explains that the hotel sends some of their marketing people to other countries to meet with foreign travel agency representatives. Their marketing people inform them that the Philippine is a safe country to visit.

### Service training

And to give Century Park Hotel a boost, Lee says the company gives priorities to its training programs. All employees are required to attend the *'malasakit'* seminar, where teamwork and cooperation are the main thrusts. "*Tinuturuan kaming magtulungan* because if the hotel business is good, the employees also benefit from it," he says.

Century Park Hotel recently sent 15 of its employees overseas to undergo training in different Marriott Hotels. They are trained in all aspects of running a hotel—front office, reservation, housekeeping, etc. The training lasts for one-and-a-half years. "*Pinapakiusapan lang namin silang huwag mag*-TNT," he jokes. After the training, these employees are asked to stay with Century for the next two years.

### Track record

Lee first came to Century Park Hotel in 1990 when he assumed the position of assistant comptroller. Prior to his job, he was connected with Lucio Tan's group of companies, starting out as an auditor in 1983. Four years later, he was promoted to head of the auditing department. In 1990, he transferred to Century Park and assumed comptrollership in 1999. In May 2001, he was asked to take over the personnel department after its director retired. He had no qualms in accepting the post, having been used to handling two major responsibilities at the same time.

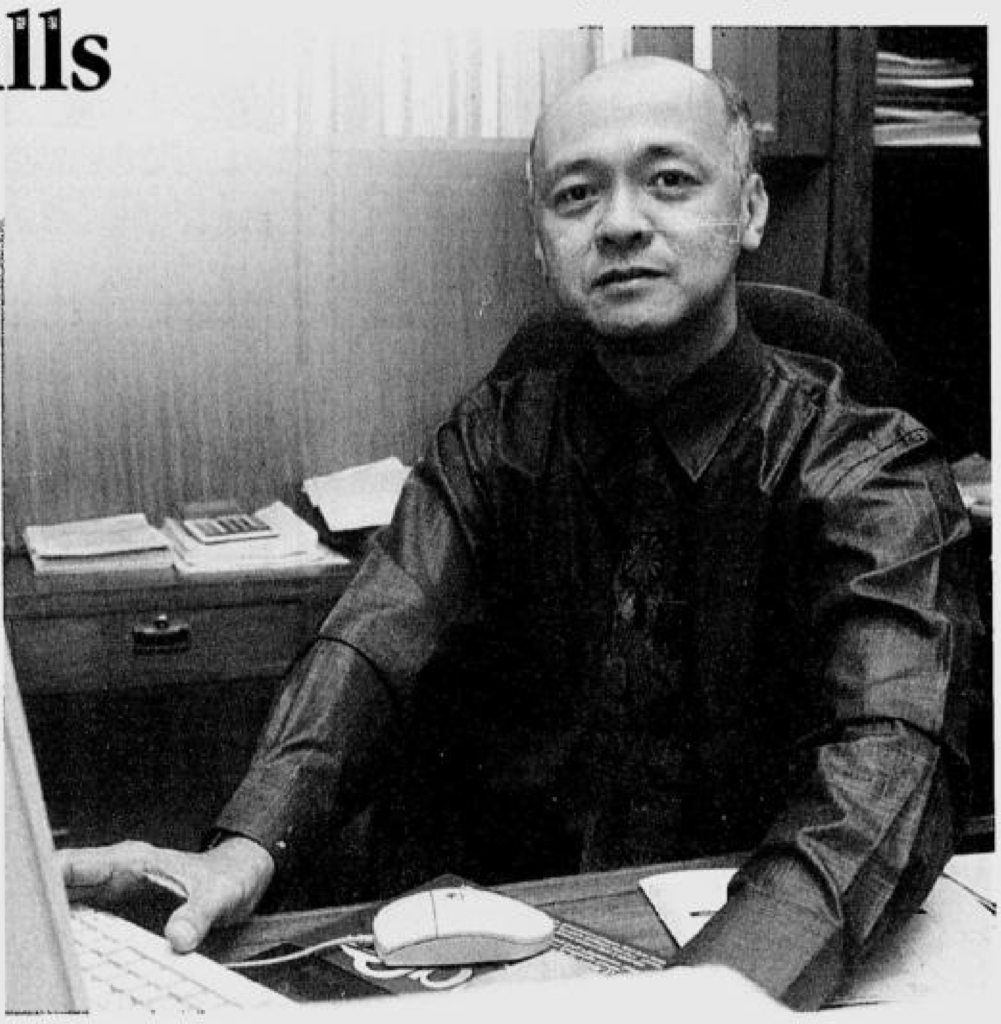
LEE

PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

He was a working student all throughout his college years. He was an office manager for a hardware store. Being the youngest in a brood of seven, his elder sisters wanted him to learn the value of money. While they paid for his tuition, the salary he received served as his school allowance. For one-and-a-half years, he took mechanical engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology, before shifting to accounting and subsequently, transferring to San Sebastian College. Right after graduation, he worked at Fortune Tobacco.

He credits Fortune Tobacco for most of his accomplishments. Being of Chinese background, Lee learned how to work diligently. He says this helped him be a good boss in Century Park Hotel.

Lee believes he has achieved success. He says that professionally, he has nothing more to aim for. He explains that aside from being comptroller and OIC, he is also one of the board directors. Lee wants to concentrate more with his family life. A doting husband and a father to two girls, he explains that giving more time to his family is his main priority. And this may prove to be his biggest accomplishment ever.

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# HR as Strategic Business Partner

From page F5

5. HR should be able to build core competencies or capabilities within the company in order to attain business success and even in turbulent times, survive crisis. By identifying the distinctive competence of the company and required capabilities for it to grow, succeed and cope with the changes in the environment, HR is able to enhance its role as strategić business partner.

Mr Ulrich indicated that HR work is now split into two parts: transaction work and translation work. Transaction work has something to do with payroll, recruitment, training, HRIS, and other HR functions which can be outsourced. There is a trend now among multinational companies which have several HR personnel to contract out services and in the process, pave the way for a reduction in HR personnel. But there is one aspect of HR work which cannot be outsourced and that is translation work. This work focuses on organizational diagnosis. It is HR's ability to assess the organization's capabilities based on its business strategies and build an organization with those capabilities which is the key to organization success. Such requires from HR four roles: coach for business leaders providing performance feedback, organizational architect drawing up plans for action, builder who delivers the HR practices for implementing strategy, and facilitator of teams to manage change. There is also one role of HR which should not be ignored and that is being the "conscience" of the organization. It is the single unit which ensures that the organization always acts above board and maintains the highest standards of professionalism and ethics especially when faced with a dilemma of contradicting top management decisions which are perceived to be immoral, unfair, illegal and inappropriate.

HR/ p.F11

A newly-established retail store that provides quality home entertainment urgently needs the following:

**STORE MANAGER**
- College graduate
- Between 26 to 30 years of age
- With at least 2 years experience in any retail outlet
- Responsible, trustworthy, can work with minimum supervision
- With pleasing personality
- Above average communication skills
- Computer literate
- Possesses managerial skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules

**STORE SUPERVISOR**
- College graduate
- Between 23 to 27 years of age
- With at least 1 year experience in any retail outlet
- Responsible, trustworthy, can work with minimum supervision
- With pleasing personality
- Above average communication skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to work on shifting schedules

**CUSTOMER ASSISTANT**
- 18-23 years old
- At least 2nd year College
- Customer-friendly and a movie fanatic with dynamic personality
- Willing to work on shifting schedules

Qualified applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resumé with picture indicating telephone/cellphone numbers, photocopy of transcript of records and other credentials to:

2239 Singalong St., Malate, Manila

or you may e-mail your resumé at
send2us@tri-isys.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE**

- College graduate of any business course, preferably Marketing graduate
- With at least 3 years of Sales experience on food products
- Excellent communication skills, aggressive, can relate well with all types of people

All interested applicants please send your application letter and resumé with picture by e-mail to: Sunbeam@pacific.net.ph or fax to 852-4480

**The WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT ~ PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT**
a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed
by the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP~PC works in close collaboration with its partners, the DOH Centers for Health Development, LGUs and NGOs, to improve the health and status of women, through the use community health development techniques which enable women at the barangay level to identify and articulate their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health.

Over its five years of operation, the Project has gained considerable experience in community health development methodologies, as well as the needs of women in the community. The Project's Research Monitoring and Evaluation staff have primary responsibility for the conduct of ongoing research on the models it has developed, as well as on the impact of its work with community women and their barangays.

The Project is currently seeking a highly qualified and experienced
**SENIOR OPERATIONS RESEARCH SPECIALIST**
to join its Research Monitoring and Evaluation staff

**Qualifications ~ Senior Operations Research Specialist**
1. Extensive experience in the conduct and management of operations research, particularly in the areas of community health development and health service delivery;
2. Extensive and demonstrated experience in research design and in data collection, management and analysis utilizing quantitative and qualitative methodologies/techniques;
3. Relevant academic qualifications and post graduate research experience, preferably at a post doctoral level;
4. Experience in the analysis of community health development techniques and processes and developing health systems;
5. Familiarity with both process-driven and rural development projects operating with specific timeframes and targets.

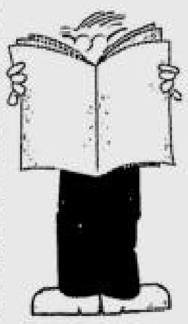
The Senior OR Specialist will be based in the Project Management Unit in Manila but will be required to undertake considerable travel and field work in the five Project regions (CAR, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, CARAGA). Engagement will be on a contractual basis.

**DETAILED TORs ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST & ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.**

Interested and appropriately qualified individuals should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resume on or before 17 January 2003, to:

**THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER**
**Women' Health Project–Partnerships Component**
**58 Osmeña Bldg., 1991 Mabini St., Malate, Manila**
**Fax : (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph**

**Where you find the best.**



Read it
every Sunday
with the
Philippine Daily Inquirer.
JOB MARKET

**A Medical and Dental Supply Company**
needs
**3 Sales Executives**

She/He must be Single with Pleasing Personality, Hardworking and Honest, either College Graduate or Undergraduate.

Interested applicants please contact Ms. Ena at 244-5574 for schedule of interview.

# Rustan's

*Urgently needs. . .*

## Human Resource Services Supervisor

*Qualifications:*

- Graduate of Accounting, Finance or any business related course
- At least one (1) year experience in payroll and benefits (knowledge in Peopleware System is an advantage)
- Highly computer literate with extensive knowledge in Word, Excel and Outlook
- Fluent in both oral and written communication
- People-oriented, trustworthy and able to work under pressure

## Merchandise Manager

*Qualifications:*

- At least 25 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business related course, preferably with an MBA
- With at least (2) years work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- Must have oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may send their comprehensive resumé with contact number, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

**RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION**
**HUMAN RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONAL DIVISION**
**G/F Rustan Bldg.**
**EDSA, Mandaluyong City**

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MICROWAREHOUSE

***MICROWAREHOUSE,*** a premier distributor of networking and mobile computing products is currently looking for highly qualified people for the following key positions:

### MARKETING MANAGER – Palm

*Reporting directly to the AVP-Sales & Marketing, the candidate will be responsible for developing marketing plans and programs that will strengthen the position of Palm as the leading handheld in the market.*

- 25 to 35 years old
- At least 3-5 years working experience in marketing, product or brand mgt.
- Technology savvy, creative, analytical, hardworking
- Excellent communication and presentation skills

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER – Palm Enterprise

*Reporting directly to the AVP-Sales & Marketing, the candidate will be working with channel partners to position the Palm as the enterprise mobile-computing solution*

- 25 to 30 years old
- Good working knowledge of PDAs and mobile computing solutions
- At least 2-3 years working experience in a related sales or marketing post
- Good communication and presentation skills

### PRODUCT MANAGER – Networking

*Reporting directly to the AVP-Sales & Marketing, the candidate will be primarily responsible for developing and implementing product marketing strategies geared towards generating revenue through channel partners.*

- 25 to 30 years old
- Good working knowledge of LAN/WAN technology and products
- At least 2-3 years experience in a related capacity
- Good communication and presentation skills

### MARKETING ASSOCIATE

*Reporting directly to the Marketing Manager, the candidate shall be implementing marketing programs and activities for the brands carried by the company*

- 22 to 28 years old
- At least 1 year work experience in a marketing position or in an ad agency
- Experience in promotions, events management necessary
- Good communication and writing skills; highly proficient in English

### NETWORK ENGINEER

*Reporting to the IT Manager, the candidate will be responsible for pre- and post-sale configuration, installation and troubleshooting of LAN / WAN*

- 22 to 28 years old
- ECE, Computer Science or Computer Engineering graduate
- Solid working knowledge of various network systems and operating systems
- Good communication and presentation skills; research-oriented; resourceful

These requirements are urgent. Please e-mail your resume to : gv@microwarehouse.com.ph or apply in person at #4 United Street, Kapitolyo, Pasig City (bring 2x2 photo, resume and other credentials).

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
**BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION**
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone No. 743-83-01 Locs. 1310, 1311; Telefax No. 711-9582

9 January 2003

## NOTICE OF INVITATION

The Department of Health has received a Grant from the Government of Japan through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) toward the cost of preparing the Health Sector Reform Project and intends to apply a portion of this grant to eligible and competent consultants who will be engaged under the Project. The following are the needed consultants:

One (1) Local Financial Management Systems Specialist (determine and recommend appropriate financial management structure, information methods and procedures and capabilities needed to address the gaps of the current financial system of publicly-owned hospitals)

One (1) Local Drug Procurement Specialist (develop an essential drug procurement including contract management, and logistic system applicable to specific provinces and municipalities)

One (1) Local Drug Management Specialist (develop an improved drug delivery system at the provincial and local levels)

Interested individuals shall submit a letter of interest together with their latest curriculum vitae on or before 17 January 2003 at the following address:

**DR. REMEDIOS VS. PAULINO**
*Director IV*
Bureau of International Health Cooperation
Department of Health
1st Floor, Building 3, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila

Or you can send your letter and CV in the following e-mail address:
**herp@doh.gov.ph.**

For inquiry, please contact Ms. Gina Ramiro through 743-8301 locals 1310 and 1311.

(Sgd.) **REMEDIOS VS. PAULINO**
*Director IV*

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## OWNER OF ODD BALLS AND MONGKOK EXPRESS Fastfood

**PRIORITY AREAS:**
**CALAMBA, STA. ROSA, CARMONA,**
**LOS BAÑOS, MALOLOS and GUIGUINTO**
**ALSO HIRING FOR: VALENZUELA,**
**GEN. TRIAS, IMUS, BACOOR,**
**QUEZON CITY, CALOOCAN and MANILA**

### CREW MANAGERS,

persons who can handle an outlet and:

- Enjoy interfacing with different types of people
- Excited about sales programs
- Motivate and discipline 4-8 Service Crew
- Follow and improve outlet systems and processes

### SERVICE CREW, those who:

- Enjoy interfacing with different types of people
- Excited about sales programs
- Are willing to do part time work

### FOOD TECHNOLOGIST, person who can:

- Handle multiple production lines
- Ensure quality standards are met
- Contribute to R&D efforts

### PERSONNEL ASSISTANT, one who:

- Is systematic and organized
- Can recruit qualified employees for the organization
- Can conduct group orientations / training

### MESSENGER, one who:

- Is able to organize multiple activities
- Meets billing and collection deadlines

Personally submit your resumé on:
**Monday, January 13:**
8:00-11:30 for Malolos, Guiguinto & Valenzuela applicants
1:30-4:00 for Calamba, Sta. Rosa, Carmona & Los Baños applicants

**Tuesday, January 14:**
8:00-11:30 for Gen. Trias, Imus & Bacoor applicants
1:30-4:00 for Quezon City, Manila & Caloocan applicants

Proceed to **SEBANTI FOODS INC., Don Mariano Lim Complex, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Almanza, Las Piñas (beside Toyota Alabang).** Telephone Nos. 772 2771 or 73. Be ready for an interview.

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**We are rapidly growing, IT company engaged in the cellular phone related business and will soon open shops in all leading malls, invite applicants to join our new business**

**We need highly competent individuals for the following positions:**

### SALES MANAGER

- Female
- Graduate of college preferably with Masteral Degree/units in Business Management
- Ability to develop and execute aggressive sales, marketing strategies and good communication skills

### SALES CLERK

- Female, single, above high school graduate
- 19 to 27 years old, at least 5'6" in height with pleasing personality
- Honest, trustworthy, autonomous

### MOBILE PHONE TECHNICIAN

- Not more than 30 years old
- At least with 2 years experience in fixing LCD/backlight and other related services
- Graduate of Electronics Technology or any related course
- With Certificate in Mobile Phone Repair Work
- With analytical and troubleshooting skills, results driven and hardworking

### CASHIER

- Female, single, not more than 29 years old with pleasing personality
- Accounting graduate

### OFFICE STAFF

- Female, single, not more than 29 years old
- Communication Arts/English major graduate
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills

Please apply in person with your comprehensive resumé, picture, transcript of records and other pertinent documents at:

**TALK LINE CORP. (MOBILE ZONE)**
Unit 2201-B West Tower,
Philippine Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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## URGENT HIRING

### SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Male/Female
- With good oral & written communication skills
- Honest, hardworking & willing to grow with the company
- With sales experience specially in sticker label
- Free-lancers are accepted

### OPERATOR (Sticker Press)

- Male
- Must have an experience in operating sticker press machines
- Honest, hardworking & willing to grow with the company

For interested applicants, please send your updated resumé through Fax or e-mail at kbcphil@hotmail.com
CONTACT NO. 838-9760 (Liza)

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synovate
Research reinvented

Synovate, one of the world's top research firms, and the market research arm of global communications specialist Aegis Group plc., is in need of the following:

### PROJECT MANAGER

- Good knowledge of market research, the processes and applications
- Can analyze data and generate relevant Consumer Insights
- Can lead, train and manage a team; able to delegate tasks
- Good project management skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, and can make presentations
- Marketing and business knowledge an advantage
- Excellent interpersonal skills and a team player
- Able to work under pressure and beyond normal office hours ,
- University degree; 4 to 5 years research experience

### SENIOR RESEARCHER

- High interest in ad hoc research and project management
- Can work with minimum supervision and is attentive to details
- Reliable and able to meet tight deadlines
- Able to work under pressure and beyond normal working hours
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills and a team player
- Good organizational skills
- Committed to be trained
- University degree; two to three years experience in research or related industry

### RESEARCHER

- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Attentive to details
- Committed to be trained in the relevant skills
- Reliable and able to work to deadlines
- Able to work under pressure and beyond normal working hours
- Team player
- University degree: at least one year experience in research or related industry

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Well-versed with computer applications, e.g. MS Word, Excel, etc.
- Reliable and able to meet deadlines
- Good written and verbal English
- Attentive to details
- Good interpersonal skills and a team player
- Able to work under pressure and beyond normal working hours
- University degree; may or may not have any research experience

### RESEARCHER AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

- Interested in ad hoc research work and client service
- Interested in marketing and business development
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Can work with minimum supervision and attentive to details
- Resourceful
- Computer literate
- Good interpersonal skills and a team player
- Able to work uunder pressure and beyond normal working hours, and can meet deadlines
- University degree: may or may not have any research experience

### ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

*For Accounts Receivables Functions*

**Main Job Responsibilities:**
- Perform daily accounting functions of A/R to ensure accounting records are kept in compliance with group accounting policies
- Process invoices, debit/credit notes
- Collection follow up; update status of A/R balances weekly
- Code and encode in A/R module of accounting system
- Prepare monthly analyses and schedules of receivables accounts

**Qualifications:**
- At least 2-3 years of post graduate Accounting experience
- Knowledge of basic accounting standards and principles
- Computer literate
- Knowledge of ACCPAC & or Solomon an advantage
- Preferable a CPA

**Other Requirements:**
- Well-organized and attentive to details
- Responsible and able to work independently
- With a sense of urgency and a determination to meet deadlines
- Good oral and written English
- Good interpersonal and telephone skills
- Preferably female in her mid-twenties
- Willing and able to work extended hours if the need arises

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to send or e-mail their resumé with a short cover letter, latest 2x2 photo and contact numbers to Human Resources & Administration Dept. c/o **Ging O. Villarruz**, e-mail address: **ging.villarruz@synovate.com**

**Synovate Inc.**
1701 West, Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Fax No. 6379233

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## WANTED
## Accounting Clerk

- Age 23 - 35
- Male or female
- Has actual experience in accounting work for 2 to 3 years

Send your resumé with picture at:

**System for Information Technology, Inc. (SFIT)**
West 701 Tektite Bldg. PSE, San Antonio
1605 Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. : (63-2) 633-8378
Fax : (63-2) 633-8376
E-mail : sfit@sfit.com.ph
Contact person : Ms. Jhanette

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## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

A major distributor of branded imported grocery, chocolates and confectionery is immediately in need of:

### SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- must not be more than 30 years old
- a graduate of any 4-year course with good communication skills
- preferably with retail selling background (but fresh graduates are also welcome)
- must be hardworking, highly-motivated pro-active and competitive

*Interested parties may call*

**Telephone No. 757-75-52**
Look for Nympha

# How Goldilocks turned into a duck

By M & M

## WORKING OOPS!

THE CHAIR of the company called the messenger to his office and instructed him to buy *mamon* from Golden Duck for his *merienda*. The messenger was perplexed, having heard this store's name for the first time. Trying to find the store, he walked around the vicinity of the office but could not find a store named Golden Duck. He asked around but nobody knew of such a store. The messenger thought, surely, this must be a bakeshop as the boss is asking for *mamon*. He located Salazar Bakery, Eng Bee Tin, Red Ribbon, French Baker but found no Golden Duck.' Finally, he mustered enough courage to go back to the hungry chair for clarification. After a long explanation, he still couldn't understand. Finally, the secretary was summoned who hit upon the idea that perhaps Golden Duck actually refers to Goldilocks.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

# Is romance a "no" or a "go" in your workplace?

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

Is your pulse rate a bit too due to stress? Is it slowing down due to asphyxiation from traffic fumes? Or it it just beating happily to the rhythm of life? Your thoughts, feelings and beliefs on various workplace issues close to your hearts, when shared can contribute to transforming our places into more human-friendly places to work in. T

This "pulse" check will be conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

The lucky respondents from last month's survey are: Brenda B. De la Cruz, National Book Development Board and Ma. Carlitas V. Hernandez, NEC Mobiling Ltd.

**Please check one:**

1. Have you ever had a romantic relationship with a co-worker?
   a. [ ] Yes, but it did not last
   b. [ ] Yes, we eventually got married
   c. [ ] No, there's nobody attractive here
2. What is your company's policy regarding work romances?
   a. [ ] They don't care
   b. [ ] They allow it only if you don't work in the same group/dept.
   c. [ ] One will have to go—killjoy!
   d. [ ] They actually encourage in-breeding here!
2. Do you believe companies should interfere with work romances?
   a. [ ] No, as long the romances are legitimate
   b. [ ] Not at all. My love life is my business.
   c. [ ] Yes, they are supposed to shape our values.

NAME: __________

COMPANY/ CONTACT ADDRESS: __________

TEL. NO. __________

Mail or fax this form or email-text your answers to:

*People at Work Pulse*
Ateneo Center for Organization
Research and Development
2nd floor Hoffner Building
Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University
Katipunan Road
Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Fax No: (632) 426-6065
E-mail: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph
Cell: (0917) 911-5562

# "Near-death" experience

By M & M

I WORK in a Chinese company. Expectedly, I have Chinese Filipino colleagues and bosses. As is common with Chinese Filipinos used to speaking their mother tongue, they try to speak the local dialect or language, but their heavy accents and delivery sometimes result in near disastrous and yet funny situations.

One time, the mother of a Chinese employee called to tell Personnel that "*Ito Naynay* Lyn. Lyn *sakit. Kailangan hinga. Di na pasok.*" If you take her words literally, you may think that Lyn is sick, needs to breathe, is probably near death and thus, won't be able to work anymore. But the message really was that Lyn needs to rest and is calling in sick for the day. Lyn got her share of ribbings when she reported for work the next day.

*(E-mail your contributions to* peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph*)*

# Career success

From page F12

the current *pan de sal* craze, for example) if you do not have the competencies and/ or the interest in that particular business.

### Self-employment

The only viable option for you right now, which you have correctly discerned, is for you to be self-employed. Being self-employed means providing a service as a professional. In this area, you may have overlooked a skill that you can offer as a professional and that is in demand right now. You are a physical therapist and you can provide services in this area. I know a lot of self-employed PTs who offer their services to the disabled and/or elderly who need such therapy either in their own clinics or in the home of patients. And the going fees you can charge can earn you a nice income. This can also provide you the time flexibility you need.

You can also think about taking a teaching job in a caregiver school. Caregiver training is proliferating nowadays because of the strong demand for caregiver services abroad. And these schools need PT teachers who can teach on how to assist in the mobility of elderly and disabled patients.

Offering your professional services in your area of expertise will give you more chances to succeed as a self-employed professional. Marketing yourself in your area of expertise will be as easy as eating pie! With your credentials in PT and experience in selling, you can be able to get many clients. Of course, there may be other opportunities that can open up for you. If you are interested in it and the pay is good, then, go for it.

*(For advice on job hunting, email* rreyes@inquirer. com.ph *or tune in to 66.6 on your AM station for "People at Work sa DZRH" hosted by the author, Reggie Reyes, former DOLE secretary Atty. Benny Laguesma and broadcasters Ruth Abao Espinosa and Andy Verde.)*

*INTERNATIONAL FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT GROUP*
*is in need of the following positions for its*
*UNITED STATES EMBASSY*
*FOOD FACILITIES CATERING CONTRACT*

1. *Executive Chef*
   - *preferably with California Culinary Academy Certificate or equivalent*
   - *with at least 1 year experience working overseas as Chef*
   - *at least 3 years working experience in the Philippines*
2. *Sous Chef/Chef de Partie*
   - *can handle kitchen operations related to the preparation of food which includes quality control, costing & menu planning*
   - *at least 3 years working experience in hotel or fine-dining restaurant*
3. *Cook 1*
   - *with experience in fine-dining or short order cooking*
   - *knowledgeable in costing*
   - *can work independently*
4. *Food Server*
   - *Male/Female, experience in 5 star hotel or fine-dining restaurant*
   - *customer-oriented and with pleasing personality*
5. *Bar Attendant*
   - *preferably female with experience in bartending*
   - *capable of handling good customer relations, aggressive, flexible*
6. *Counter Helper*
   - *Female, with experience in sandwich making*
   - *has good customer relations, with pleasing personality*
7. *Cost Controller/Stock Clerk*
   - *knowledgeable in doing inventory, monitoring of stock level*
   - *attentive to details*
8. *Cashier*
   - *with at least 3 years experience in hotel or fine-dining restaurant*
   - *customer-oriented and with accounting background*
9. *Driver*
   - *with valid professional driver's license*
   - *hardworking, honest*
   - *dependable and with good moral character*
10. *Kitchen Helper*
    - *at least 2 years experience in fine-dining restaurant*
11. *Utilityman*
    - *hardworking, honest*
    - *dependable and with good moral character*

All applicants from nos. 1-8 must be a graduate from exclusive or reputable schools, must speak English fluently. Qualified applicants may send or apply personally with their recent resumé, 2x2 photo, NBI Clearance and all supporting documents and references to:

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**
**#15 Aras Street, Brgy. Maytunas**
**San Juan, Metro Manila**
**Tel. No. 725-5256**

*Save the Children Federation, Inc.*

*Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide, implementing community development projects that help children in need. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for:*

**HEALTH/POPULATION/ NUTRITION MANAGER**

Reporting directly to the Deputy Country Director of the Philippines Field Office, the Health Manager will be primarily responsible for providing overall direction to the health, population and nutrition efforts of the Philippines Field Office. He/she will provide technical inputs to the Health Coordinators in existing program areas related to the implementation of programs/projects under Save the Children's Sectoral Program Initiatives Team (SPRINT). He/she shall also serve as a liaison for health initiatives between Save the Children and its partner agencies. He/she may also be requested to provide technical assistance to these partner agencies. He/she shall also be responsible for providing direction to resource generation in this sector and for coordinating efforts in pursuing funding opportunities.

**Key responsibilities:**
The Health/Population/Nutrition Manager shall: (1) provide technical inputs for programming and decision-making related to the health, population, nutrition sector, (2) Prepare project proposals for submission either to funding agencies or to other Save the Children offices, and develop/refine HPN strategies towards scaling up or institutionalization, (3) provide technical support for the Health Coordinators in existing program areas, (4) Coordinate with head office HPN staff and provide them with inputs/technical support for securing central grants for this sector, (4) Prepare reports to funding agencies, home office, partner organizations and the Deputy Field Office Director, (5) Document experiences in sectoral programming for publication, technical presentation to local and international audience or for circulation among special groups.

The position will be based in Metro Manila and will require periodic travel to other program areas Iloilo and Mindanao. During these trips, HPN Manager is expected to prepare detailed scopes of work, trip reports and similar documentation of activities undertaken in the field.

**Requirements:**
This is a senior position requiring strong leadership and management skills; Previous work experience in a similar position in an international NGO highly preferred; Bachelor's degree in health or related discipline required; Minimum of ten years program development experience. Demonstrated training and research skills. Fluency in English required. Computer literacy a must. Professional work experience in a multi-cultural work a plus.

Qualified applicants may send their resumés on or before January 24, 2003 to:
*By mail* - CODE: HPN MGR, Save the Children Federation, Inc., No.1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. *By fax:* (632) 853-02-15.
*By e-mail:* cgcolina@savechildren.org (please indicate code "HPN MGR" in subject line).

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## HR as Strategic . . .

From page F8

### What's Wrong with HR?

In the same conference that I mentioned in the introduction part, another CEO was quick to point out that, based on his observations, one of the pitfalls of HR people is their lack of knowledge of the business. It is my opinion that the lack of knowledge can be easily rectified if HR would be given adequate support from the top.

In order to augment the seemingly lack of financial acumen which has been mentioned already, it is essential that HR professionals should start to build their competencies in finance and accounting by taking up seminars like Accounting for Non-Accountants and Basic Finance/Accounting Principles. It would also be good if HR people can read and absorb certain finance and accounting principles by reading books on the subject.

In fairness though, HR professionals are now able to show their true worth by coming up with, and initiating the use of, HR Metrics within the organization. These are performance indices which enable not only HR but also line managers to measure, for instance, employee productivity, as well as improve procedures by effectively reducing the time utilized in, for instance, hiring a Manager from the time the manpower requisition was approved and sent for processing. There are, of course, more complex and useful HR Metrics.

### Other HR Challenges

Mr. Vladmir Pucik, a Professor of International Human Resources at the Institute for Management Development at Lausanne, Switzerland offers three additional challenges for HR:

1. HR professionals should find time to deal not only with internal customers but also with external customers. By knowing exactly what external customers want, HR professionals would be able to appreciate more the needs of business and focus their attention to hiring the right people who can blend well with, and delight, external customers.

2. They should be able to highlight their competencies compared with their counterparts in finance, marketing, operations and other corporate functions. And they would only be able to do this if they would direct their efforts toward achievement of organizational performance and success.

3. They should not forget the social dimension. HR professionals should not only be concerned with profitability but also corporate social responsibility. Businesses with conscience and concern for the well-being of people outside the company are able to create a good image, in the process establish goodwill among the general public that it serves.

As HR guru Dave Ulrich said, we are in the Golder Era of HR." As HR professionals, we should be able to seize this rare opportunity and start performing our role as strategic business partners. Only then can HR enhance its true in this New Age of Human Capital.

---

## MALAYAN INSURANCE COMPANY

MALAYAN INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
A YGC Company

The No. 1 Non-life Insurance Company in the Philippines
is in need of :

### LAWYER

- Member of good standing of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines
- Graduate from a reputable Law School
- Willing to start a career in litigation

### SPECIAL PROJECT MANAGER

- Graduate of a finance related course
- With at least 3 to 5 years experience in investment, banking or finance
- Knowledgeable in project management
- Excellent oral & written communication skills

### FACULTATIVE REINSURANCE MANAGER

- Graduate of any four (4) year business related course
- With at least three (3) years supervisory experience in a non-life insurance company
- Must have excellent communication skills
- Customer service-oriented

### AUDIT SUPERVISORS

- Graduate of BSC - Accountancy, must be a CPA
- With at least two (2) years supervisory experience in audit
- Must have excellent communication skills
- Customer service-oriented

### ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Graduate of any four (4) year business related course
- With at least one (1) year experience in non-life insurance as an Account Executive
- Must have excellent communication skills
- Computer literate
- Customer service-oriented

### PARALEGAL CLERK

- Graduate of any four (4) year business related course, preferably with units in Law
- Must have excellent communication skills
- Computer literate

### DOCUMENT CHECKER

- Graduate of any four (4) year business related course
- With at least two (2) years experience in a non-life insurance as an underwriting clerk
- Computer literate
- Customer service-oriented

You may send your application letter, comprehensive resumé with recent 2" x 2" picture and Transcript of Records to:

**THE PERSONNEL OFFICER**
Human Resources Services Department
Malayan Insurance Company, Inc.
5th Floor, Yuchengco Building
484 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila

e-mail address : jobs@MICO.malayan.com

---

## Technical Infrastructure Manager

The successful candidate will be responsible for all information services activities related to the company's network, infrastructure and computer resources. You will liaise with our regional offices.

You must have a degree in Computer Science, Electronic Engineering or equivalent degree from an accredited University or college, and at least 7 years experience in Information Technology Industry in the areas of systems deployment, data center operation, technical infrastructure development and maintenance on various DOS and Windows-based packages. You must possess strong experience in local and wide areas network systems as well as Intranet and Internet connectivity. A significant experience in operating in a multi-cultural environment is an advantage.

This position requires a hands-on attitude and a strong ability to manage multiple priorities. We offer the right applicant a dynamic, exciting and multi-cultural environment and a competitive package. Resumés with a cover letter indicating contact phone number may be sent to:

**Email: rpv10@pacific.net.ph**

---

**A Subsidiary of an International Call Center based in the U.S is seeking 40 young, dynamic**

## CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVES

**for immediate hiring to handle 3 main service groups.**

***Qualifications:***

- Has completed at least 2 years in a reputable College or University (Part-timers will be considered)
- Conversant in both American English and Tagalog or conversant in both American English and Mandarin (Chinese dialect)
- Well-acquainted with the local pop culture and the latest in the Philippine Movie Industry (required for one service group only)
- Must be willing to work any of the 24 x 7 shifts
- Willing to undergo intensive training
- Experience in selling or telemarketing a definite plus
- Computer Literacy also a plus

Interested applicants are requested to submit their **Curriculum Vitae** to the *7th floor Hanston Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City* at the soonest possible time.

**Applications without specific Job Titles will not be processed.**

For further inquiries, you can call us at *Tel: 636.8050*

---

BARANGAY WACK-WACK GREENHILLS EAST

## Barangay Wack-Wack Greenhills East Mandaluyong City

### BARANGAY POLICE

If your fulfillment is in protecting and serving the community through community policing, join our Barangay Police Force.

***Qualifications:***

1. Male / Female
2. At least 5'4" in height for male and 5'2" for female.
3. Must pass the following physical examination.

| Male | Female |
|---|---|
| 4 km run with 1/3 body weight load within 45 mins | 4 km run within 30 mins |
| 50 push-ups | 15 push-ups |
| 6 pull-ups | 3 pull-ups |
| 50 sit-ups | 25 sit-ups |
| 1.8m standing long jump | 1.5m standing long jump |

All applicants must be 21-30 years old, graduate of any 4-year degree course, physically fit, must pass the medical examination and neuro-psychiatric test, does not smoke and not a heavy drinker.

Secure an application form at:

Barangay Wack-Wack Greenhills East
Unit 5, Starmall Apartelle, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Tel: 718-19-25, 718-19-26 Email-blrb@mydestiny.net
Contact Persons: **Arlene Cordial or Engie Valera**

**ONLY QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE ENTERTAINED.**

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

*A large and established manufacturer and distributor of world class food brands is seeking qualified applicants for the following position:*

### MERCHANDISING SUPERVISOR

- Pref. Male, 35 years old and below
- College graduate pref. Marketing or Bus. Mgmt.
- At least 2 years experience in supermarket operations (selling/merchandising)
- Must have good PR skills

***Salary shall commensurate with qualifications and experience.***

This is an URGENT requirement. Please send or submit personally your resumé with recent photo to:

**HR Department**
145 Panay Ave. cor. Sgt. Esguerra St., Quezon City
(at the back of HI-Top Supermart, Quezon Ave.)
E-mail Address: hr@sysuinc.com.ph

---

## HARI GARMENTS MFG.

### GRAPHIC ARTIST & MERCHANDISER

to design clothing / fashion underwear

General Qualifications:

- M/F ; 23-35 yrs. old
- Must be a graduate of Fine Arts / Fashion
- Designing or any other course related in Garments.
- Knowledge in clothing design and fashion underwear.
- With minimum 2 years related working experience.
- Flexible hard working, trainable and resourceful

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume with latest photo to:

**Personnel Department**
**2225 Tolentino St., Pasay City**
**Tel. Nos.: 887-1510 / 887-1518**

---

## Account Executives

- Male/Female 22-35 years old
- At least 2 years in College
- Corporate selling and college graduate is a *plus*
- Self-motivated and willing to be trained
- P9,000 (basic) + P2,000 (allowance) + commission + incentives
- Bring bio-data with 2x2 photo
- Apply in person

Hiring 30 AE's on January 13-21
at Unit 1540 City&Land Mega Plaza,
ADB Corner Garnet Ave., Ortigas Center
(across Galeria Suites)
10 a.m. **OR** 1 p.m. (choose one)

**CLIP AND BRING THIS AD. COME 10 MINUTES EARLY**

---

CATHAY PACIFIC

**Cathay Pacific Airways, Ltd.**
**Is in need of**
**AIRCRAFT MECHANICS**

**Qualifications:**

- Male
- Graduate of an Aircraft Maintenance or related Engineering course
- Minimum of 2 years work experience in aircraft maintenance
- Hardworking, diligent and motivated
- Patient and has initiative
- Prepared to work long hours, shift work, and over holidays
- Computer literate (Word, Excel)
- Possesses a driver's license
- Physically and mentally fit

Interested parties may send their comprehensive bio-data to:

**P.O. BOX NO. 2585**
**Attention: Engineering Manager**

Deadline for submission is on 26 January 2003

---

### FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

## COLLECTORS

- MALE
- AT LEAST 25-35 YEARS OLD
- WITH DYNAMIC EXPERIENCE AND
- WITH DYNAMIC PERSONALITY

PLEASE HANDCARRY YOUR RESUMÉ PERSONALLY AT:

**HAFELE PHILIPPINES, INC.**
103 CENTRAL BUSINESS PARK
AMANG RODRIGUEZ AVE.
MANGAHAN, PASIG CITY
TEL. 681-5352

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

# Career success can be always regained

By Regina Galang Reyes

## MARKETING BRAND 'YOU'

**I READ your article in the Inquirer's Sunday People at Work (1/05/03) about the Discouraged Entrepreneur. I see myself in the same turf with him. Anyway, I find your thoughts helpful prompting me to seek for your advice, which can help me make a decision.**

**I worked as physical therapist since graduation till I reached 30 years old. After working in the US for 6 years, I came home to get settled hoping that I can be self-employed. But circumstances of childbirth and child rearing of a 1-year old daughter allowed me to work just part time, doing "buy and sell."**

**Two years ago, I went back to school for a master's degree in business administration to hone my skills. I want to enter the corporate world but I am anxious about my age and the eight-to-five-hour job, which will not provide me the luxury of taking care of my daughter. On the other hand, I want to go into business but am quite pessimistic on the economic outlook for our country. At the same time, I feel I need to work in a company first before diving into a real business. Part-time trading is okay but I feel that I like to be involved in service-oriented business.**

**Are there any part-time jobs, apart from being an entrepreneur, i.e. market researcher and the like? How can I market myself? The flexible time is for me to provide childcare for my daughter. Hopefully, when she is a little bit older, I can work full-time but I am afraid that by that time, it would be even harder to enter the workforce. Thank you very much and hope to hear from you.**

**Trying to Get Back to Work**

Your dilemma is one faced by working moms everywhere—how to earn a living while at the same time properly caring for your child. But you are on the right track with your decision to give priority to your child.

According to Josie O. Santamaria, president of Career Systems, Inc. and EQ expert, the more important years in child rearing are those from birth up to seven years. These are the formative years when the child imbibes values and habits that will serve him well (or ill) in the turbulent teenage years and later adult years.

### Competencies

Thus, it is very important for the child to have proper guidance and care during this crucial period. So, your decision to give time for your child now is a good one; it can save you and your child grief later on.

Of course, putting your career on hold during this period will prove detrimental to your career, albeit temporarily. But you can always recoup the "lost" years later on (which you cannot do if you have not reared your child properly) for as long as you have the will to succeed.

From your letter, I can see that you have many competencies that can enable you to choose your path. First, you mentioned that you are a physical therapist and that you have practiced this profession for many years. Second, you are acquiring business skills as you study in your MBA. Third, you have experience in sales—you went into buy and sell—and apparently made some money from it too. Fourth, you have the motivation to do well and do right as shown by your letter.

### Alternatives

Based on your competencies, you can review the options open to you, which you have in fact started to do. Your options are: you can be an employee, you can go into business or, you can be self-employed. You have already mentioned your reservations about getting a full-time corporate job.

But apparently, you would like to do this and you have already invested some time and money in getting an MBA. However, you realize that it is not possible as of the moment to go immediately go back to corporate work. Tit is difficult to get back to the local job market after an extended stint abroad. So, this may not be a good option for you right now.

You mentioned that you are interested in going into business but are concerned about its success considering the economic situation in the country right now. You also want to have more corporate experience first before going on your own.

In this sense, you are right. While the economic conditions are adverse to new businesses, there are products and services that you can offer that can work in specific market niches for as long as they address the needs of that market niche.

The thing is, you still have to think about what business you can go into and see if you have the competencies and the motivation to go into that particular kind of business. It is foolhardy to just plunge headlong in any business because it is the current fad (like

CAREER SUCCESS / F10

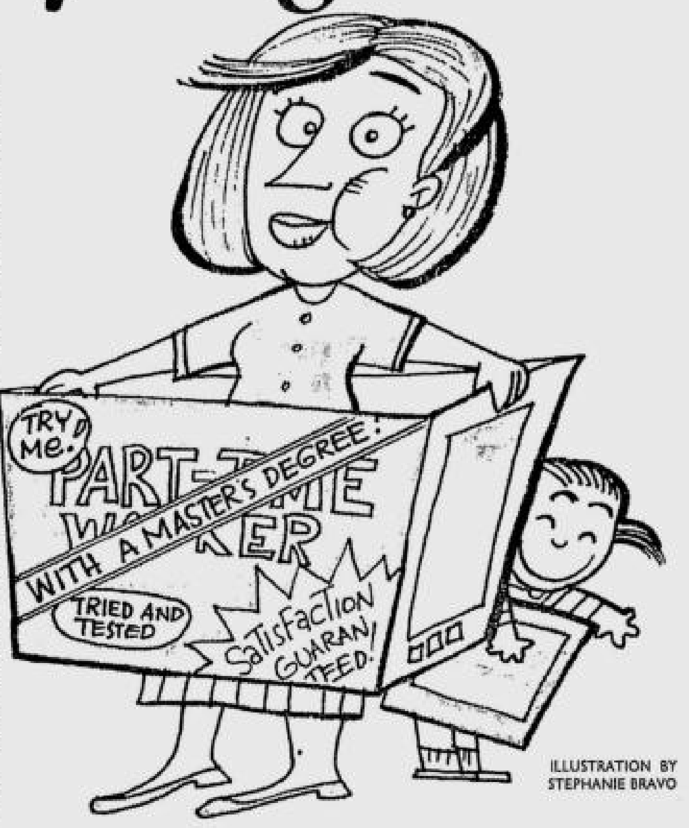

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

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## REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

# Knowing our roles

By Teresa R. Tunay

JOHN was not someone to sneeze at—he was an important man himself, baptizing believers and exhorting people to turn back to God. He was regarded as a holy man, and yet, in announcing the coming of the Savior, John was to say that he was not even worthy to untie Jesus' sandal straps. John spoke with conviction because he knew his role, his place in God's plan, and it was not to be the Messiah.

What a nicer place our offices or factories would be if all of us knew our roles and faithfully stuck to them! However, sticking to our roles in the workplace is easier said than done. There is always that tendency to take on more—or deliver less—than what our job descriptions require. Because we're human, in our eagerness to pursue our hopes and dreams we sometimes overstep boundaries; thus, odd creatures like "little presidents" and "secretaries" are bred in the workplace. We all know what chaos can descend upon the workplace on account of the "good intentions" of neglectful underperformers and know-it-alls who dip their finger in every corporate pie!

Fulfillment at work comes with "finding our niche," and we find our niche through honest self-evaluation in order to identify our strengths and weaknesses. A prayerful attitude helps. Accepting as God-given both our talents and limitations, we realistically determine what we can and can't do. Grateful for our gifts and those of others, we embrace our roles and contribute to order and harmony wherever we happen to work.

*(E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph.*)*

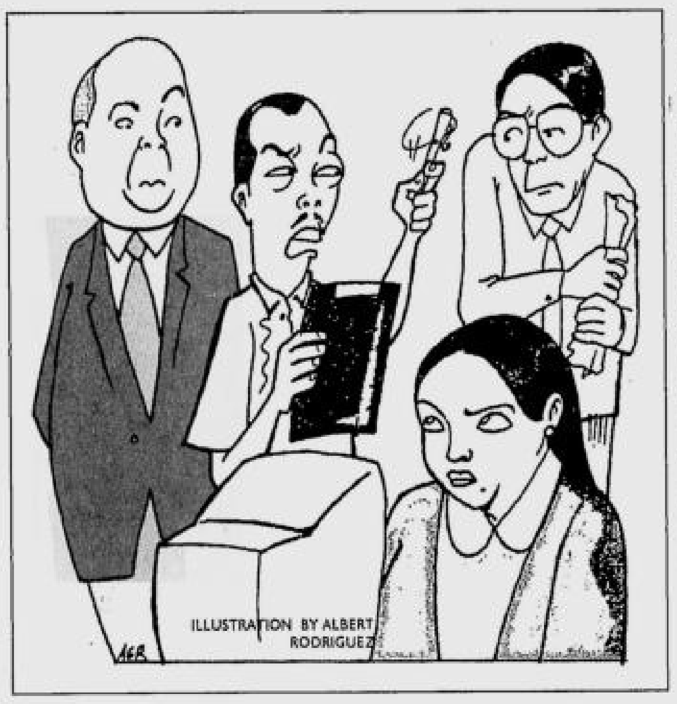

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

**Gospel for Jan. 12, 2003 – Mark 1:7-11**
*Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John ... And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

# Pleasing our employer

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IN OUR desire to get promoted in our work, we do almost everything to please our superior or employer. We work hard to meet the criteria set for an excellent rating in work performance. We are even ready to render extra services or give personal gifts to our superiors just to please them and get their approval. If we are eventually chosen as the 'most outstanding worker' we get a promotion in our job, an increase in salary, and most of all, a greater sense of self-worth. But what happens if we are not selected?

Frustration could be one of our feelings when we don't succeed in getting the much-desired recognition. A low self-esteem may also set in when we fail to get our superior's approval. This situation, however, should lead us to search for the deeper meaning of our need to be recognized and to understand that the true value of what we are does not depend on what we achieve alone.

Our need to be recognized comes from our very nature as human beings—created in the image of the great, almighty God. Thus, it is natural for us to seek higher things. Yet, we are more than just creatures of God; we are children of God by our faith in Jesus Christ "the beloved Son of the Father." So, whatever we do in the name of Jesus becomes a valuable offering to the Father. When we offer our work to God in prayer, God is surely pleased with our homage even if we don't get the world's recognition of what we feel is our best performance. Pleasing God through our work is enough reward!

*(E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net.*)*

# How to tell if there is a layoff in your future

## WORKING WOUNDED

*Bob Rosner*

**DEAR WW: A friend of mine just got laid off after 19 years with his company. He says that it came totally out of the blue. I started thinking, could it happen to me? Are there any ways you can tell if your company might be heading toward a layoff?**
**Cruisin' Toward A Bruisin'**

Your letter reminded me of a conversation I had with a senior executive at a bank while I was running a small start-up. I knew she hated her job so I asked her why she stayed. "For the security," she said. "Your company could disappear tomorrow, but my bank will be here forever." Ten years later, my start-up was thriving while her bank was struggling through yet another merger and downsizing. Ironically, the bank changed its name to Security Pacific. But that was the only security she could find—she was laid off shortly after the merger.

If that bank executive had been paying attention to the warning signals, she might have been better prepared. Here's how you can get a general idea of your company's long range plans and whether you fit into them. Try asking the following questions.

Are sales increasing for your product or service? Recently, Microsoft announced a layoff of people who produce floppy disks because the market is shifting to CD's. The general performance of your company is not as important as the performance of your area. Make friends with co-workers in sales or accounting and see if you can get a peek at sales trends and projections.

How efficient is your company? Every company has its key efficiency measurements. (The retail industry, for instance, measures inventory turns). Find out what measures are important within your department and then contact industry trade associations to find out how your numbers compare to the industry average.

What are your executives really saying? Learn how to read between the lines of company speeches and publications. Look for warnings about "strong competitors" or moves toward "more efficient operations." ("Efficiency" is often a code word for layoffs). Look for lengthy explanations about a "difficult environment" (code for declining profits), and beware any move toward offshore production.

What are the business press and stock analysts saying about your company? How your company is perceived on Wall Street has an impact on its stock performance. And there's nothing like a falling stock price to persuade executives to take remedial action—they all own stock options, after all. Another way to find out what the analysts are saying is to check out Standard and Poor's or Value Line at your local library.

Conducting an annual "exam" won't prevent you from getting laid off, but it can take the surprise and shock out of the bad news. Even the bank executive from above admitted she should have seen it coming. With a change in the law about where banks can operate, she should have banked on the fact that hers would soon be a takeover target. If she'd been a better business scout, she'd have seen the headlines and could have hit the ground running with her resume in hand.

*(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@working wounded.com*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
January 12, 2003

# Lala Flores' Second Wind

*For this ultra-hot make-up maven, the transition from mannequin to artist has been anything but a demotion. Rather, it's been a chance for the erstwhile supermodel, wife and mother to spread her creative wings*

*By Alya B. Honasan*
*Photograph by Mike Alquinto*

**IN SPITE of her 10 years as a ramp and print model, her Ford Supermodel Philippines title from 1990, her work experience in Singapore, the US and Europe, and the many challenges she has overcome in her new career as one of the Philippines' hottest make-up artists, it's still obvious: Milagros "Lala" Flores is a bundle of nerves. She talks animatedly, a dusky, self-confessed *"babaeng bakla"* (female gay) whose bright eyes and blinding smile prove she can still hog that runway. She means the latter description in the fondest of ways, as a woman whose career, personality and life have been irreversibly shaped by the gay men who have dominated this field she has gotten into. Until now, that is.**

"I'm the product of gay people in the industry," explains the 33-year-old Lala, whose status was recently reinforced by her work on one of last year's most high-profile brides, Jamby Madrigal-Valade, and her involvement in the Penshoppe ad campaign that put American singer Mandy Moore on Philippine television ads and billboards. "I was the first supermodel-turned-makeup artist. I thank my 'sisters' every chance I get, because in my time there were no female artists. I mean, I worked with these *badings* day in and day out. But I have made my own contributions. Because I'm a woman, I know if a woman is happy or not. Clients like it that I have the capacity to listen."

She admits to still being nervous about such unexpected encounters as this interview, and, of late, the meeting that got her the Jamby job. "The bridal coordinator called me to do a trial, but I was leaving for the US to do Brad Turvey for the Mandy Moore ad, and I couldn't do it. So I thought, *ayun*, finished. I came back after three weeks and got a call from a photographer friend, asking me to do his client, even if it was a Sunday and my kids and my husband would protest. So I went to the address, and I swear, *isang bloke yung bahay* (the house was one whole block)! When I found out who was expecting me, slightly panic *ako*. Honestly, I was afraid of

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HAIR BY ALEX CARBONELL OF PROPAGANDA

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## In Memoriam

*By Eric S. Caruncho*

# Sweet Memory

**IN HER all-too-brief sojourn on this planet, it was unfortunate that, for many, Patricia Borromeo's main claim to fame was that she was once Richard Gomez's girlfriend.**

But the former fashion model, a favorite mannequin of fashion czar Pitoy Moreno and once chosen one of Manila's Five Loveliest, wasn't just another pretty face. After she died peacefully last Jan. 8 at age 31, following a long struggle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, people are finally beginning to see the other qualities that made her special.

What Patricia loved most of all was teaching. She began teaching grade school classes in Brent School, and later opened her own pre-school.

"Teaching keeps you young," she once said in an interview with SIM. "The kids teach you to appreciate the simple things in life. It's so easy to make them happy."

These lessons came in handy after she was diagnosed with the life-threatening disease. She devoted her energies not just to fighting her own illness, but offering hope and support to other cancer survivors as well.

In her memory, we are reprinting excerpts from SIM's cover story on Patricia (May 11, 1997).

*What do you think is your greatest strength?*

My patience. I need to be very patient to be able to work with kids. And to have a celebrity boyfriend.

*Your greatest weaknesses?*

I have a lot of patience when it comes to kids, but when it comes to grown-ups, I don't have as much patience.

*What can't you live without?*

My job.

*What do you love most about your job?*

Being with the kids. Because it makes you feel young and teaches you to be more appreciative of the simple things.

*When are you happiest?*

When I'm working, and when I'm with my family and friends and surrounded by lots of kids.

***Patricia Borromeo lived to teach children, and maintained her quiet, elegant dignity in the public eye***

EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

Patricia photographed with a student for SIM in 1997

Sunday Inquirer Magazine
Vol. 15 No. 44
January 12, 2003
ISSN 0116 - 232X

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**SIGNES** A paneled exhibit of the new generation of graphic design in France by young graphic designers opens on January 13 at Alliance Francaise Totalfinaelf Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. Exhibit runs until January 31. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

## House

A kind of wanting
it was. A kind of not
wanting. It was

our favorite
place. By the screen
door. Under the eaves

of the old clocks. Beside
the vases. The mornings.

The wind
that could enter but
not leave.

That stayed the long
days within. The long

keys hidden
under the dark
carpet.

Up the old
trees, under
the leaves—this strange

way of
insisting to leave,

a kind of greed,
rustles.

**L. Lacambra Ypil**

## Sa Mata ni Lala

*(alay sa batang si Mik)*

Silang dalawa
magkadantay na hinuhubdan
ang gabing gayak
perlas at pilak

Walang inilindang oras
nakalislis ang saplot
sa magdamag

Kalunos-lunos silang
nagkakanlong sa dilim
Lalo na't kalas ang kamay
bibihisan nila ang bagong umaga.

**Marian A. Caampued**

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

**LoveNotes**

*By Joe D' Mango*

# Friendship, Intimacy and Jealousy

***I'm doing everything to bring back our friendship, everything we once had. Please help me, Joe. I don't want to lose her***

*Dear Joe,*

*I'm Anne, 20 years old, and presently working at one of the country's respectable banking institutions. My story is quite unusual because it isn't about a boy-girl relationship. It's about a broken friendship. I met Joy a year ago; she was a freshman at a university in Manila, while I was a graduating student. She was my roommate, and I was instantly comfortable with her, maybe because I never had a sister. Our friendship grew deeper, Joe. She was the only person whom I shared my feelings with. We watched movies, ate out and attended concerts together.*

*Since I was already graduating that March, I spent more time with her. I went to her place in Bulacan almost every weekend to be with her. Joe, it was at this point that we started becoming intimate with each other. We kissed, hugged, and I suppose, we did everything. After that, we became touchy about our feelings, especially with friends. As time went by, we argued and fought about petty things.*

*Most of the time, I would start it. I always felt jealous of her friends. In the end, though, I would always be the first to apologize and cry. I also felt that she was trying to distance herself from me. I don't really know why I felt this way, Joe, despite the fact that we were always together. After work, I'd pick her up in school and we'd eat snacks together. We even prayed the novena to St. Jude on Thursdays.*

*Last September, Joy got annoyed with something I did. I don't know what got into me, but I followed her secretly when she went out to buy things for her project. I saw her call someone on her cell phone. I waited and watched her. After that incident, I wrote her a letter and revealed all I had done. She got so upset about it, Joe. Now everything's changed. She forgave me, but I could no longer bring back the closeness we once shared. She seldom texts me now. She even refuses to touch me when we're walking together. I'm doing everything to bring back our friendship, everything we once had. But I guess she has totally closed the door. Please help me, Joe. I don't want to lose her.*

*Anne*

Dear Anne,

It's obvious that Joy is slowly inching away from you. You said it yourself; it was because of your own doing. You have gone beyond being obsessive and your actions made her despise you.

Your sexual encounters shouldn't have happened in the first place but both of you consciously allowed them to take place. You were extra close to each other but that doesn't give either of you the right to own and control each other's lives. She was back to her normal self but you were still hung up on your "friendly commitment." You tried to control her life and you drove her away in the process.

Anne, I don't think it is wise for you to be overly engrossed with the thought of winning and bringing her back. She deserves to live a life of her own just as much as you do. Keep your friendship special but don't let it go beyond that.

Anne, for most people, fulfillment in life comes in having your own family. Start focusing on someone you can build a family with. Someone you can love freely without having to worry about what the world will say. Someone you can call your own and someone you can share your life with, beautifully and forever. Good luck and God bless you always.

The dew-and-lip gloss look by Lala, as shown in Preview Magazine, right; Lala the supermodel in action, far right

## Lala *...from page 1*

her in the beginning."

It complicated matters that Jamby had initially booked someone else who was Lala's senior, "and I didn't want to overstep anybody. It wasn't until the coordinator really asked for my answer and assured me that things had been fixed that *nakahinga ako* (I breathed easy). I've been a model for 10 years, and I value the relationships more. I don't want to rub people the wrong way. It's not money. It's a craft I enjoy doing, but if it's just going to get in the way of friendship, I won't do it." And the wedding? "It was beautiful," Lala swoons.

When she placed a measly 23rd among 24 contestants for Miss Adamson University years ago, this industrial engineering student never thought she would go far. Then designer Renee Salud was called in to judge the event, and he singled out the 5'9" dark horse. Soon after, Joey Espino got her to join the Ford Supermodel Competition in Manila, and she emerged the hands-down winner.

It was not to be that simple, however. Lala's then long-time boyfriend (her first one, at that) and now husband Pogs Magpantay stayed staunchly by her side, and within a year of the victory Lala was pregnant with her first child. "That wasn't planned. He still feels like he cheated me out of a career sometimes," Lala laughs. "But for me, after I got over my insecurity, I accepted that this was my life, my reality, and I shouldn't feel bad about it. My maturity came much later." She and Pogs were married after their first child was born.

For a while Lala waffled between modeling or motherhood. Then in 1994, already the mother of two kids, she was sent to Singapore to compete in a modeling contest, and she won. Then followed job after job, with Pogs patiently attending to his own seafood supply business in Manila. "When I got the chance to model again abroad, that's when my career took off," Lala says. "But he was always very supportive. My claim to fame is that I have five

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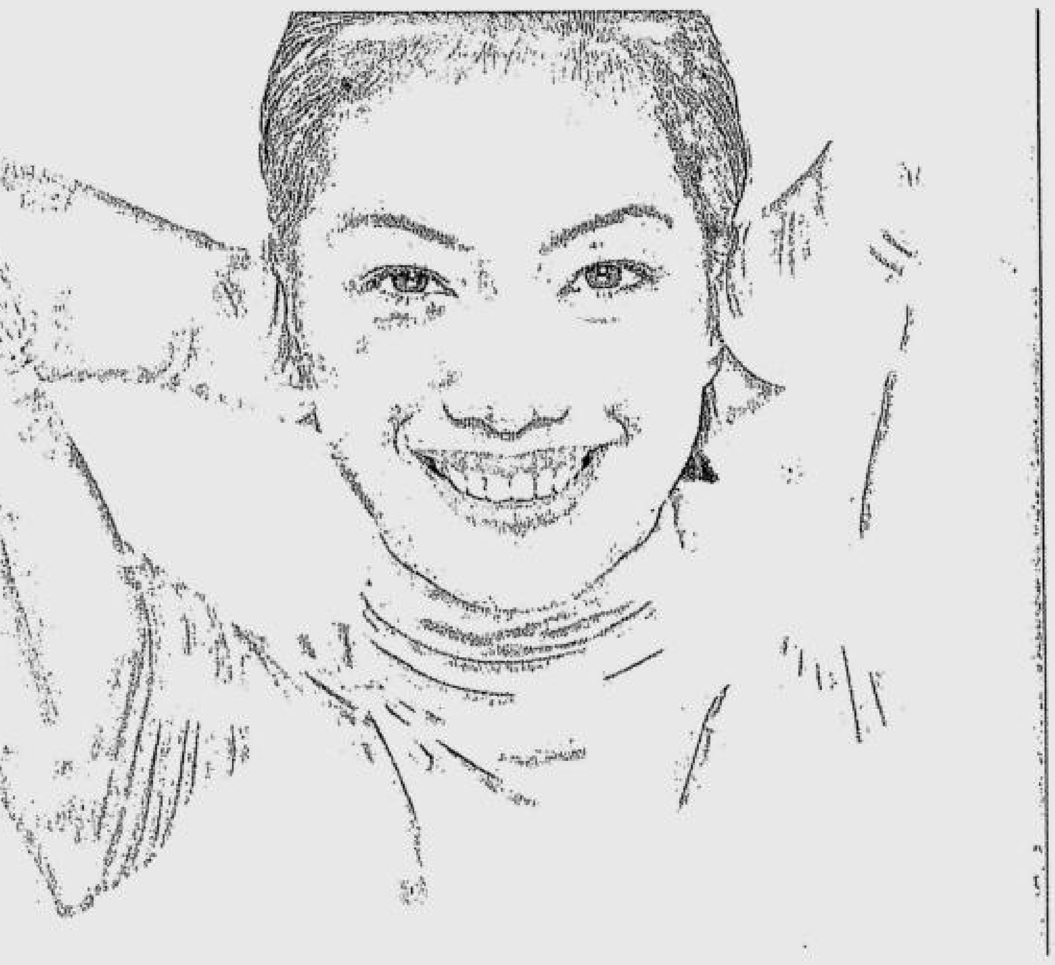
Photography: MARK LAW Hair & Make-up: SUSAN DING/PASSION CLEO MAGAZINE



## L A L A

**Height: 5'9"/ 1.74M Bust: 34B" Waist: 25" Hips: 35**
**Shoes : 10 Dress: M/10 Eyes: DARK BROWN Hair: BLACK**

**Businesswatch**
*By Ruel S. De Vera*

# Super Shop Girls

*A comic book shop run by girls? Sisters Katya and Tin Cheng Chua are running their business with both passion and brain power*

**IT WAS an idea that got fleshed out, like penciled silhouettes suddenly gaining inked definition and colored substance. But as far as comic book origins go, this is a relatively ordinary one. Sisters Katherine "Katya" and Khristine "Tin" Cheng Chua were born four years apart in a brood of five to businessman Tomas and wife Sonita Cheng Chua. They had three younger brothers with names good enough for comic books as well: Khervin, Kherwin and Karl. Like other smart families, they enjoyed reading, but comic books were special very early on.**

"My family has always liked comic books," 24-year-old Tin explains. "Even my dad has this bound volume of comics at home." Katya, 28, explains that, growing up in Jaro, Iloilo, "our parents taught us to love reading very early." Katya began collecting "X-Men" back when she was in first year high school and Tin soon followed suit.

Like many Filipinos, they just fell for the vibrant hues and shades of the Marvel, DC and Archie titles. "It's that nice mix of art and words," Tin says of the appeal of these comics despite their being relatively expensive. In fact, whenever the two would go and buy their comics, the salesgirls usually assumed they were buying these for their brothers. Katya enjoyed manga, or Japanese comic books, so much she actually learned to read Nippongo on her own.

After a few years, Katya graduated from St. Paul's in Iloilo and began managing a real estate company. Tin graduated from the Ateneo and began teaching at Xavier School. In 2000, the two quit their jobs, went to graduate school and traveled a bit. That's when the idea of putting together a comic book shop occurred to them.

"After a lot of trips abroad, we kept coming home with luggage full of books and comic books," Tin explains, "and we realized that there were people like us who wanted titles that other comic books didn't carry, like independent and Japanese titles." Adds Katya, "And we thought if we could get just one percent of the local market, we would be all right."

Yet the sisters didn't approach their dream with wide-eyed naivete. They needed a real plan. They embarked on scouting trips to Singapore and began getting in touch with distributors. "That took a lot of time, and it was frustrating," Tin remembers. With the patience of a caped crusader on patrol, the two kept at it.

For funding, the two prepared a true-blue business plan to present to their parents. "We had to submit a very detailed business proposal, complete with target market and everything," Katya explains. "They really taught us that when you embark on a business like this, you don't just rely on passion and idealism; you have to ground it on facts and numbers." A loan was soon secured and distributors signed on.

After two years of planning, the sisters opened Central Comics Headquarters, or CCHQ, in a building along school-studded Katipunan Avenue and prepared for the worst. "We had all these worst case scenarios," Tin recalls. "But we also have this joke that if it doesn't sell, we own it."

The two needn't have worried. Faster than you can yell "Shazam,"—indeed, even before CCHQ formally opened—people were already asking about their wares. The store seemed to have magnetic

To page 7

Katya and Tin show off the merchandise

MIKE ALQUINTO

**Pinoys Abroad**

*By Annie Gorra Rago*

# Conquering the Cold

*Maria Venida, a Filipina CFO of a top government housing company in Canada, has found her place in the sun in the Arctic*

**Doggone: Riding a dog sled in the Arctic**

**FILIPINO-Canadian Maria Venida goes where only the bold-hearted of immigrants go: the Arctic. At the northern edge of Canada facing the Arctic Ocean lies Nunavut, the newly-minted 10th province of Canada and home to the Inuit, an aboriginal people. Winters in this vast whiteness can drop to -40 degrees Centigrade, and the cold can cut like a knife. It's one place that will chill the heart of even the most winter-inured person.**

Venida served as the chief financial officer and, at times, acting president of the $300-million Nunavut Housing Company, a government organization that provides housing to the people of Nunavut. The CFO position is the highlight of a career that began in Manila and spanned the East and West Coasts of Canada. Venida's resume reads like a travel itinerary: Manila, Vancouver, Toronto, Yellowknife (Vancouver), Mississauga, and Nunavut with a few side trips to New York thrown in.

Each place represents a milestone in an immigrant's journey that started in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1969 with $50 and two suitcases. Thirty-three years later, this Filipino immigrant commands a six-figure salary and holds the post equivalent to that of Assistant Deputy Minister in her adoptive country's 10th province. Now in her 50s, Venida stands out for "bringing home the Canadian bacon."

Thirty-three years to bring home the bacon may sound too long and unimpressive. But in a foreign country where no one knows you or cares, and where your educational background and work experience back in the Philippines are held suspect, the bar for success is set quite high. Add to that the challenges of race, gender and language, and the bar ratchets up a notch. Venida rose above it all.

Listening to her story is like attending a Success 101 course. Lesson one: Have a goal. And don't confuse goal with dreams because "a dream," she says, "is just a dream, while a goal is something that you work and reach for." Lesson two: Be open to possibilities. "Canada is a big country. Explore it. Don't get stuck in one place."

Obviously, no place is too far for this woman. "You have to be open-minded to all the opportunities in front of you," she says. And if it's not staring at you, "you have to create them by going out there." Out there is the overcrowded marketplace where competition takes on a global scale: people from different countries vying for the same position.

While most job-hunters scour for employment opportunities in the classified ads or the Net, Venida researches the top people in companies and goes directly to them because "they have the decision-making power."

Most of the time, she's way ahead of the pack. "I always update my resume so when there's a job posting that's interesting, I would just send it with a cover letter." When she fired off her resumes to different organizations before she joined Nunavut Housing Corporation, she received responses on all of them. She had to cancel three interviews and decline two potential offers. She picked Nunavut because it gave her what she wanted: a six-figure salary, opportunity to practice her accounting profession and new challenges.

Maria cuts to the chase and does not dwell on nonsense. She eats fast. Every gesture and step has a purpose. Asked to describe her, her friends come up with one common adjective: grit. "Others may have the qualifications but she's the only one who has the grit and determination to go where she will succeed," says Filipino-Canadian Mari La Rosa, manager of one of the Scotiabank branches in Vancouver.

Venida's CFO job became the litmus test of her grit and ability to deliver what's expected of her. A few days into her job, she was asked to develop the company's finance department and create a financial system that will link its corporate offices in communities within Nunavut that are separated by bodies of water: Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, and Cape Dorset. Tied to this network is Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories, which is a part of Canada's northern region and next door to Nunavut.

Venida had to strike a balance between her overdrive to complete the project and pleasing the authorities. When asked about its chances of failure, she flatly says, "I don't see it failing."

The third in a competitive family of 11, Venida's drive to maximize opportunities came at an early age when she saw her father, a former purchasing officer for the National Power Corporation in Manila and president of a mining company, behind a big desk. This vision has stayed with her until now, one of the reasons that motivated her to achieve. "I saw myself making decisions, having a vision for an organization."

But Venida worked her way up and gave up a lot to sit behind a big desk at the Nunavut Housing Company. Knowing that her foreign-service degree from the University of the Philippines would not take her far in the field of numbers, she went back to school in 1979 to become a Certified General Accountant while traveling throughout the Arctic as a Program Officer of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

The first thing to go was her social life, but she has no regrets. "You have to be able to give up something so that in the near future, you're able to do more," she says.

Venida visited Central Arctic communities lugging her books with her, working on her assignments. When she got snowbound in a hotel, she turned the time into a study session. Her tenacity paid off. When she graduated in 1986, she scored the highest mark for management auditing in Alberta and tied for the highest mark in Canada.

Venida stayed in the Arctic until 1990 but decided to leave after a punishing winter of -50 degrees Centigrade with a wind-chill of -70 degrees Centigrade. "I asked myself 'Why am I doing this?'" Not one to whine over something she no longer enjoys, she packed up and returned to balmy Vancouver in British Columbia. She easily made the switch. "When you know who you are, you know your skills, you know your strengths, you know your weaknesses and you work hard on improving on those weaknesses, then, you can make the switch."

In Vancouver, she worked as Deputy City Treasurer for the city. Heading a team of 12 people including outside consultants, she redesigned the Revenue and Treasury Services Division for best practices and overall business process that resulted in increased revenues and more focus on customer service. The document is still being used in Revenue Services. "It was the project that everyone remembers her for," says Penny Bruin, former city treasurer, who finds Maria "a joy to work with."

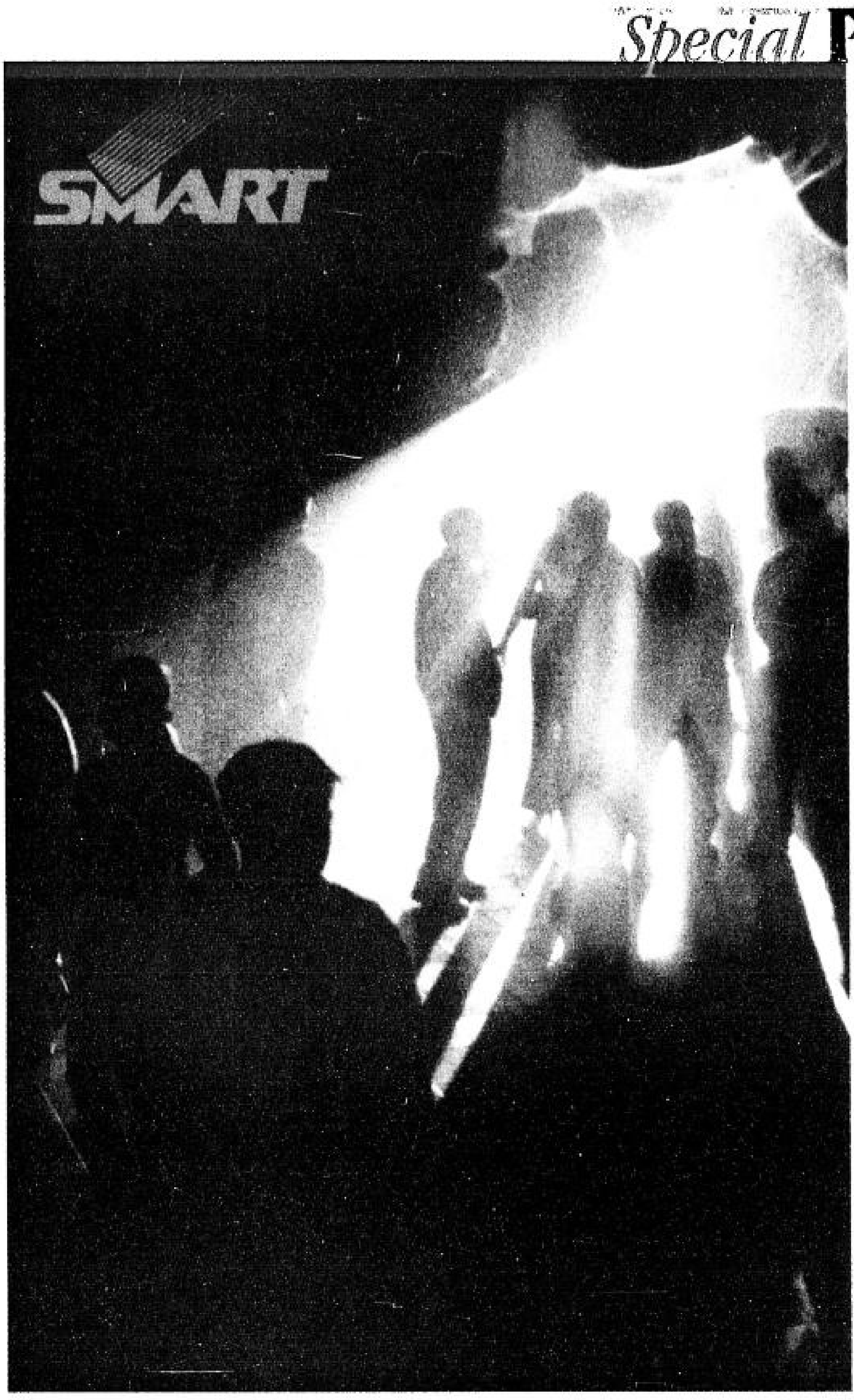
But it didn't take long for this Filipino Canadian to heed the call of the North. In 2001, when the position of CFO for Nunavut Housing Corporation was offered her, she pulled up stakes and returned to the Arctic. "It has its own sense of beauty," she says. The aurora borealis, nature's spectacular light show in the sky in winter, or the sun that never sets during summer gives the place a rugged appeal. The rapidly changing weather and the harsh temperature suits her temperament, Venida says. The challenge of helping the Inuit build their fledgling province gives her purpose in life. "You come to a certain point in your career when it's not money anymore," she says. "You ask yourself, 'What has God planned for me on this earth?'"

After 33 years of living in Canada, she describes herself as more of an international person. "What's Filipino in me is my sense of family," she says. Add to this is her faith in God. "It works whether you're in a small plane or in a big jet, a big city or a small one."

The Arctic, however, may not be the last stop in this Filipino Canadian's journey. If something sweeter comes up, she may just leave it behind. In fact, as of this writing, she is set to accept another position with a government agency in Yellowknife. "Life is an adventure; I dare it," she says.

**Venida, shown at home, is one of the few Filipino-Canadians making a mark on the Canadian landscape**

*Annie De Castro Gorra Rago writes from Vancouver, British Columbia. She can be reached at brag2000@shaw.ca*



SIEMENS
mobile
SMART

# SMART and BIG FISH THE STORY SO FAR

Wicked music, tantalizing electronic visuals, and world-class production - one year of a full-blown clubbing experience. The story begins here.

On March 16, 2002 over 6000 partyphiles packed the expansive halls of Casino Filipino amphitheatre to attend the dance event of the year - Chicane Live! It was this groundbreaking gathering that paved the way for the most sensational and mesmerizing clubbing experience staged only by telco-giant Smart Communications, uber dance event promoters Big Fish and MTV Philippines.

After the unbridled success of Chicane, who would have known that another mental party was to follow. SMART pushed the envelope even further with Slinky World Class. Deemed as the last party standing last Holy Week, Slinky World Class held at Hey Jude!, Boracay, lured all clubbing enthusiasts to dance from dusk to dawn. Truly making it a complete hedonistic escape by the sea!

The success of the summer bash did not stop Smart and Big Fish as they brought all party goers the much awaited return of Gatecrasher. Shortly after, the massive party known as Simply Ibiza followed on June 11. The SMART 7 million subscriber celebration shaped a luscious collaboration between Space Ibiza, featuring TaniaVulkano and Global Underground world class DJ Dave Seaman.

The super club series continued on, as Smart and Big Fish brought to Manila shores, the Godskitchen Global Gathering and the Ministry Of Sound Global Tour.

In August, the partying decks turned around as Big Fish hit the renowned clubbing capital, London! Smart sent the Big Fish crew off to party with superstar Djs such as Sasha, Paul Oakenfold, and Tiesto at biggest clubbing festival in the world CreamFields. To highlight the trip, resident Big Fish DJ TC made his European debut at the home of Slinky, the Opera House, Bournemouth. Parties definitely go beyond geography.

On Oct. 31, the 3rd Cream Annual Halloween Ball hit Manila as a night of rampant and uninhibited dancing overflowed at NBC tent hailing it to be the most attended party the venue has ever seen. SMART had rewritten the record books once more.

Almost a month later SMART unleashed Miss MoneyPennys, the most glamorous club in the world. The illustrious funky house beats of the club graced Makati skies at Top of the Citi, last Nov. 23 where a selected seriously stylin' new breed of posh clubbers gathered together to witness the unique and superlative transformation of the corporate tower restaurant into a absolutely sophisticated club.

The super club series ended with a bang as Smart celebrated the feat of attaining 8 million subscribers through SMART DOMINI8, a multi-event regalia with Privilege, the worlds biggest club. Once again hard core clubbers roared for more as hailed US DJ Chris Fortier hit the decks.

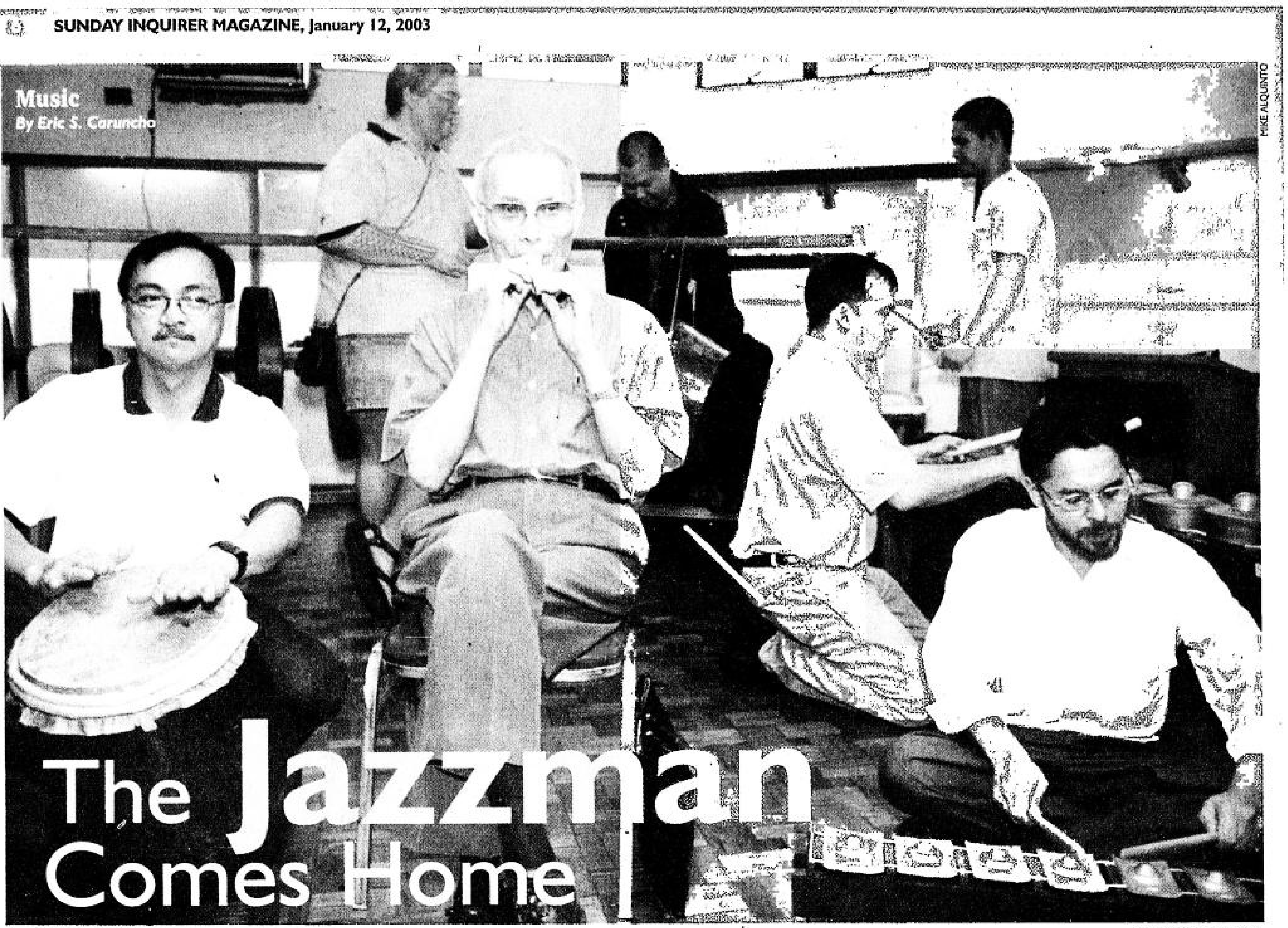
"The year has been one hell of a ride, a fun never ending trip. For 2003 we promise to give everyone bigger and better parties. This is the only the beginning" says Domini Primero senior partner of Big Fish as he looks back on 2002.

So for all you clubbers out there old and new, the sun will rise again, we'll see you this year!

ADVT

Music

By Eric S. Caruncho



# The Jazzman Comes Home

**Jazz friends: Peña (on chair) jams with fellow travelers, among them Ruben Maigue, Joey Valenciano, Bo Razon and Richie Quirino**

**SOMEONE once called Angel Peña "the Godfather of Pinoy jazz."**

**"No," Richie Quirino begs to disagree. "He's the Dalai Lama of Pinoy jazz." If anyone should know, it's Quirino, who has authored a book—as yet unpublished—titled "A History of Jazz in the Philippines."**

Come to think of it, "Dalai Lama" does evoke the mixture of awe and reverence in which the 81-year-old Peña is held by fellow musicians. Quirino's book traces the development of jazz in the country from the American colonial period to the present, and no single figure looms larger in it than Peña, who's all of composer, arranger and bassist. His works have been performed by generations of jazz players for the last five decades.

But Peña is equally at home in the realm of classical music. In the late 1950s, he began to incorporate indigenous themes in orchestral works, and such compositions as "Igorot Rhapsody" are still in the current repertoire of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, winning applause both here and abroad whenever they're performed.

Last March, Peña returned to the land of his birth after more than 33 years in the United States, most of them spent as bassist and arranger for the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. But while he no longer plays the bass, there is no stopping the marvelous music that runs in his head.

"I live and breathe music," says Peña. "I would die without music. Now that I'm here, I want to continue my writing. I want to be active. I want to die smiling."

Born April 22, 1921, Peña was surrounded by music as a child. His mother, a schoolteacher, studied voice at the University of the Philippines, and it was from her that he learned the *solfeggio*. His father played the violin, and his grandfather was handy with the guitar. The strongest influence on the young boy, however, was a maternal uncle who not only played the violin, but was also a bandleader on a Japanese luxury liner that traveled between Hong Kong and New York. He would return from cruises abroad with jazz and classical records, which Peña would listen to on a hand-cranked gramophone.

"That's how I got introduced to jazz," he recalls. "I first heard the music of Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman from those records."

Apart from genetics, Peña had the good fortune of growing up in Malabon, famous for its musicians and marching bands.

One uncle had a *cumparsa*—similar to the present-day *rondalla*—whose musicians could play note-perfect adaptations of classical pieces such as the "Poet and Peasant Overture" on their guitars and *bandurias*.

In those Commonwealth days, Malabon, Navotas and Caloocan also had a thriving cabaret scene, where patrons could dance to live big-band music.

His father had discouraged Peña from studying music, hoping he would take up law, medicine or some other "respectable" profession. But by then it was too late.

When he was 16, Peña started hanging around the Malabon Recreation Hall to watch the band and to practice on his guitar. From time to time, the band leader would let him sit in, and he got so proficient on the instrument that when the regular guitarist quit, the band leader hired him on the spot.

"I was making one peso a night, and we were playing seven nights a week, from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., sometimes until 5 a.m., but we didn't complain. We were happy. That's when I realized that music was really for me."

A self-taught musician, Peña read books on musical theory and composition. From listening to records, he knew that he had an exceptional ear. He could reconstruct entire arrangements—all by *oido*—without having to sit down at a piano to pick out the notes. Since big-band scores were hard to come by in those days, local bandleaders hired Peña to reconstruct the scores from Glenn Miller, Stan Kenton and Les Brown records.

> ***Today's generation of young musicians are discovering Angel Peña, considered the Dalai Lama of Pinoy Jazz, whose works have been performed by five generations of jazz players***

"I became very engrossed in what I was doing," he recalls. "It was very thrilling to me, because I could hear the musicians playing exactly what I wrote."

It was just a short step from writing down other people's music, to writing his own. Just before the war, Peña wrote his first original jazz composition, titled "A Man and His Running Bass."

"It was a novelty if you ran the bass at the time, because we were still in the transition from Dixieland to Swing."

That was soon followed by another composition called "Chords From My Guitar."

"I also wrote *kundiman* for the girls I was in love with," Peña recollects. "But I'm not a gigolo. I'm a one-girl boy. One at a time. Musicians are romantic—it's part of our music."

The outbreak of the war put a temporary halt to music making, but not for long. Although life was hard under the Japanese—Peña still recalls the burnt-rubber taste of *sisid*-rice (rice grains from sunken cargo vessels retrieved from the sea) —there were still clubs that offered live music, such as the Black Cat Club and the Shanghai Club in Binondo. Band leaders such as Tirso Cruz and Pete Aristorenas and bands like the Shanghai Swingmasters played behind black curtains until the 11 p.m. curfew. Peña would sit in, rushing to catch the last *tranvia* home to Malabon. If he missed that, it was a long walk in the dark, dodging Japanese sentries.

When life returned to normal after the war, Peña became one of the most sought-after arrangers in Manila. Particularly lucrative were foreign shows, which paid higher rates for original arrangements. He had also switched from guitar to bass, and was playing with Tirso Cruz's Manila Hotel band, among others. This gig led to another, writing orchestral background music with Restie Umali for LVN Pictures. This in turn further kindled Peña's interest in classical composition.

At the time, there was already some scholarly interest in indigenous Filipino music. Lucrecia Kasilag had already begun popularizing the *kulintang* and other tribal instruments. Classical composers had long been incorporating Filipino folk elements in their compositions. The same idea of expressing a distinct Filipino identity was now being felt in jazz.

"I was interested in Pinoy jazz," recalls Peña. "I wanted to show the difference between American jazz and Filipino jazz. It wasn't only the Filipino feeling, but the instrumentation, the form, the melodic line."

In 1956, Peña formed a big band for the Upsilon Sigma Phi's traditional jazz concert at the University of the Philippines. He decided to write something special for the occasion, and the result was a landmark in Filipino music.

"*Bagbagtulambing*" was developed from a three-note Igorot theme, and while it is certainly not the birth of Pinoy jazz, it is one of the genre's high-water marks.

"You might call it classical jazz," remarks Peña. "It was a classically-oriented piece, but I incorporated a big part of jazz in it."

The piece so impressed Ramon Tapales, dean of the UP College of Music at the time, that he invited Peña to teach a course on jazz. This later sparked a controversy when some conservative professors objected to the state university teaching what they considered a "vocational" course. (Remember, this was in the '50s when jazz wasn't quite as respectable as it is now.) The controversy was so heated that it even got a mention in "Downbeat" magazine—then, as now, the bible of jazz.

The debate, however, was only a minor distraction for Peña, for whom no music—classical or jazz—was alien, so long as it was good. Although he liked Kasilag's experiments with ethnic instruments, he felt that the music could travel better if it were played on conventional instruments.

"I thought the symphony orchestra would be a good medium to introduce our music to the rest of the world."

Taking off from the work of an ethnomusicologist based in Silliman University, Peña composed "Symphonic Variations on Two Manobo Themes."

In 1959, the University of Santo Tomas launched a national composition contest open to all Filipino composers. Peña's entry, "Igorot Rhapsody," won the P1,000 first prize the following year.

Since then, Peña moved effortlessly between the jazz and classical worlds, sometimes straddling them. For some time, he made a living as an arranger, playing with the leading jazz lights in Manila: Emil Mijares, Lito Molina's Jazz Friends, Raul Manglapus' Executives Combo. During a three-year stint in Hong Kong, he earned a Licentiate with the Royal Schools of Music in London, which is equivalent to a music degree.

Peña was never one to stand still, however. In 1969—fed up with too many low-paying gigs and too many drunken patrons waving guns—he auditioned for the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and was immediately accepted as bassist and arranger. He would spend the next 28 years in Hawaii. As a farewell homage, the Manila Symphony Orchestra performed his "Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra."

In Honolulu, Peña continued to write his own music. In 1981, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Filipino community in Hawaii, the Honolulu Symphony debuted his "Concerto for Jazz Quartet and Orchestra," with an all-star Filipino jazz quartet.

Meanwhile, during his absence, jazz groups back home continued to play his compositions, and the seeds that he had sown began to bear fruit.

"In the 1930s, bandleaders such as Ariston Avelino, Carlos Valdez and Rey Alinsud were already making jazz arrangements of folk songs," says Peña. "It was already a tendency in Pinoy jazz. 'Bagbagtulambing' was a continuation, and I continued to arrange folk songs in jazz. I did 'Sarungbanggi' and 'Leron Leron Sinta.'"

Guitarist Eddie Munji recast Peña's arrangements for the jazz fusion era with his landmark "Pinoy Jazz" album in the late '70s, as did Ryan Cayabyab in his "Roots to Routes" album. Today, contemporary musicians such as Bob Aves are bringing the tradition into the new millennium.

Meanwhile, a new generation of Filipino musicians is discovering the composer. Since his homecoming, Peña has collaborated with the UP Jazz Ensemble on a number of concerts. The UP College of Music is also planning to hold an all-Peña recital, which will bridge the artificial gap between jazz and classical music. This February 7, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra will perform "Concerto for Jazz Quartet and Orchestra" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Although music remains a consuming passion, Peña is also very much involved in spiritual development. While in the US, he began to explore other philosophies such as Buddhism and Yoga. A remarkable encounter with a Hindu swami pointed him to the path of Vedanta, which seeks a union between the individual human soul and God. Peña practices a kind of meditation called Kriya Yoga. But since he believes that all music emanates from the Divine, there is really no barrier between the musician and the seeker.

Even in his 80s, Angel Peña is still showing the way.

## This Week

### Art

**Consisting Upholding**, an installation exhibit by Eric Zamuco combining photography with painting or sculpture, until Jan. 31 at the Ayala Museum, G/F, old Makati Stock Exchange building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. For details, call 812-1191 to 95.

**Chinese Celebrations of the New Year**, an exhibit of what the Chinese in the western provinces of Mainland China eat, wear, perform and live in during the Spring Festival, opens Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m. at The Edge, UP Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC and will run until Feb. 28. For details, call 928-1927.

**A Literary Couple**, a biographical exhibit on Abelardo Subido (1912-1979) and Tarrosa Subido (1912-1994), will be on view at the gallery of the National Commission for Culture and Arts from Jan. 15-30. The show features over 100 images and essays on the Subidos' involvement in Philippine arts and letters. For details, call 564-4473 or 527-2192.

### Music

**Le Boulevardier music bar** at the InterContinental Manila gears up for a fun 2003 with fabulous food, drinks and live band entertainment this month. Kislev performs on Mondays. Parliament Syndicate's soothing acid jazz tunes and Mulatto's groovy R&B sound can be heard on Tuesdays. The Family Cruz Band and Moonstrucks get people dancing on Wednesdays. A-Petite and Kislev dish out the latest pop hits on Thursdays. Heat of the Night and Rockin' Revival play the oldies but goodies ditties on Fridays. Asciano caps the week with electrifying performances on Saturdays. For inquiries, call 815-9711 loc. 261 to 263.

**Para Isidro and Bituin Escalante appear in "Have I Told You Today That I Love You?"**

**Have I Told You Today that I Love You**, a concert featuring Bituin Escalante and Para Isidro together with Thai guitarist Tanapat Mathayomchand on Jan. 24 and 25 at the Music Museum. For inquiries, call 826-2664.

### Cinema

Alliance Francaise de Manille presents **Cyrano** starring Gerard Depardieu on Jan. 15, 8 p.m. at Alliance Ondeo Auditorium, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. Cyrano de Bergerac is in love with his cousin Roxanne. Afraid that she might reject him because of his grotesque appearance, he decided to keep his affections secret. Instead, he talks the handsome and somewhat unintelligent Christian into wooing her, letting him use his letters and poetry. Roxanne finds Christian attractive, but Cyrano doesn't realize that it his beautiful words that win her heart.

Cine at Instituto Cervantes features ***El Amor Perjudica Seriamente la Salud***, a comedy set in the booming Spain of the '60s starring Penelope Cruz in the character of a young hysterical Beatles fan, Jan. 18, 5 p.m. at Salon de Actos, 2515 Leon Guinto cor. Estrada Sts., Malate, Manila. Free admission. For details, call 526-1482 to 85.

### Onstage

Tanghalang Pilipino presents **Rhythm Method *(Kung Kailan Ka Pwede)***, a humorous take on the life of Dr. Ogino Kyusaku, the Japanese obstetrician who, in 1924, was the first in the world to determine the timing of women's ovulation. The discovery is presented in a comic dramatization that addresses pregnancy, women's health and contraception. The play runs at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute from Jan. 17 to Feb. 2. Tickets available at National Bookstore Ticketworld (891-5610). For details, call 832-3661 or 832-1125 loc. 1620/21.

### Atbp

**Rediscover Don Henrico's Malate and West Avenue**, an anniversary raffle promo that gives guests a chance to take pleasure in the good life. Every P1,000 purchase (dine-in, take out or delivery), earns the guest one raffle coupon. Lots of prizes are at stake ranging from magazine subscriptions, spa and reflexology treatments, CDs, to weekend getaways at prime hotels and resorts all over the country, including the two grand prizes of a three-day vacation for two at Plantation Bay. Raffle period is until Jan. 15.

The Order of the Hermetic Gold and Rose+Cross presents a **free seminar on Opening the Third Eye**. Topics to be discussed are the nature of the third eye and techniques on how to awaken this psychic center. To be held on Jan. 18, 2-5 p.m., Room 108, University Hotel, UP Campus, Diliman, QC. For details, call 937-1040.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines will hold a **film appreciation workshop** on Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 2 and 9 at the CCP Tanghalang Manuel Conde. Billed "Paano Ba Talaga Manood ng Pelikula," the workshop will feature inputs on the various aspects of film appreciation, as well as screenings of and discussions on classics of Philippine cinema and the best of world cinema. For inquiries, call 832-1125 loc. 1705.

**Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True!**, a multimedia show-seminar will be conducted by life-enhance coach Dero Pedero on Jan. 18, Saturday at 2 p.m. on the roof deck of the Buendia Tower, 501 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue between Taft and Bautista. Learn the universal principles, secret formulas and strategies to help you achieve success, prosperity and fulfillment in life. For details, e-mail DeroSeminar@yahoo.com or text/call 0920-4053233.

Journalists, public information officers and corporate communicators are invited to pursue **graduate work at the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication**. The Institute offers masteral programs in Journalism and Communication Management. For the second trimester, courses offered are News Development Techniques, Laws Affecting Mass Media, Knowledge Management, Development Environment of Communication, Statistics and Communication Theory. For details, call 724-4564 or 724-4604.

The Japan Foundation Manila Office announces the **2003 Nihongo Speech Contest** to be held at the College of St. Benilde Theater on Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. Winners will take part in an all-expense paid week-long study tour in Japan. The deadline for submission of the duly accomplished application form with a written copy and a recording of the speech will be on Feb. 3. For details, call 811-6155 to 58 or visit its office at the 12/F, Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

In Touch Community Services at 48-A McKinley Road, Makati will hold a **Better Eyesight Seminar**—Improve your eyesight naturally without eye exercises, drugs or surgery. Free intro lecture on Jan. 18 and 25, 10 a.m.; Jan. 21 and 28, 6:30 p.m., Jan. 22 and 29, 10 a.m. Seminar begins Feb. 1. For details, call 893-7606, 810-6233 or 0917-4810961.

**The women characters of Tanghalang Pilipino's "Rhythm Method (*Kung Kailan Ka Pwede*)"**

### X-manila

**K3 Encounter's outdoor activities** for the month of January and February: 1) Real, Quezon—beach camp on Jan 18-19; 2) Corregidor—historical camp on Jan. 25-26; 3) Taal Volcano Hiking on Feb. 1-2. Please contact or text Eric (881-6483 and 0919-8529413), Rizza (0917-9483599), Melvin (0918-9381369), Jules (0920-4184601) and Teng (0918-3485720).

**Ballroom Dancing Cebu—More Than The Usual Dance Steps**, an international fellowship night presented by Department of Tourism's Visit Philippines 2003 Campaign, Cathay Pacific and Cebu Plaza Hotel featuring the Arizona Ballroom Company of USA, Jan. 18, 8 p.m. at Visayas Ballroom, Cebu Plaza Hotel. Tickets at P1,000 inclusive of dinner buffet. For details, call 0917-9625664.

**For this week's bands and schedules call:**

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

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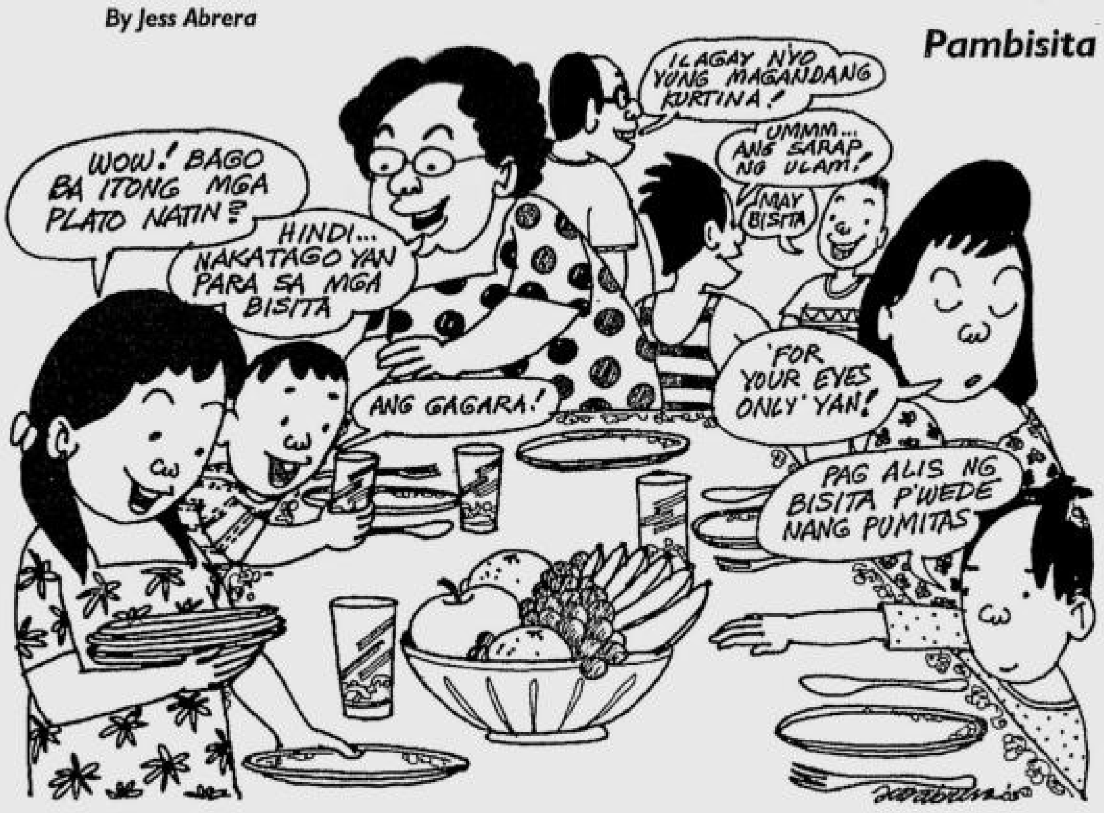
The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

## Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

### Pambisita



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MAY BISITA
ANG GAGARA!
'FOR YOUR EYES ONLY' YAN!
PAG ALIS NG BISITA P'WEDE NANG PUMITAS

## Lala

...from page 3

children, all by the same husband!" Indeed, her size 8 figure belies the fact that she has kids ranging in age from 1 1/2 to 11, and that Lala spends Sundays at home in Parañaque cooking for her brood, watching DVDs and TV and heading out of town with the bunch in tow.

The call to a career change came in 1996. Lala was still modeling, and had just discovered she was pregnant with child no. 3. "I thought, this must really be the end of my career." *Kumpare* and colleague Jing Monis of Propaganda was the one who told her, "You know, you can be a make-up artist. You have the right attitude, and you know what you want." "During shows, I'm a stickler for details," she says. "I don't correct your make-up—that's a sign of disrespect—but I would express my opinion without offending you." Although her dream was to do hair, and she did take courses with L'Oreal and had her start as a colorist with the salon Propaganda, Lala was eventually persuaded to pick up a brush and palette. Soon she was doing such good work that magazine editors like Myrza Sison were asking, "Where have you been?"

"I see a person and I know what look to create," Lala explains her style. "I understand because I've pulled off that look before. You are what you want to happen, and make-up can help you achieve that. I ask clients to show me their clothes, their hairstyle. I'm always experimental and playful, and I think my background as model has helped me to not be afraid and to be creative. But I also remember that I'm here to be at your service."

Not that she lets clients or colleagues walk all over her, says this in-demand artist for celebs like Pops Fernandez and Gretchen Barretto and the campaigns of Ponds, Penshoppe and Neutrogena, to name a few. "I heard someone say that *madaling uminit ang ulo ko* (I have a short temper). But that happened once because they gave me a call time of 3 o'clock and I only got to begin work at 8 p.m. My time is also important to me. I just have the nerve to say it sometimes; I know how to fight for my way."

When she began work, Lala remembers, she still dressed like a model. "*Hindi nila ako pinapansin* (I'd be ignored)!" she roars. "OA *kasi.* So I had to walk the walk and blend in, in rubber shoes and baseball caps. But now that I've earned some respect, I'm a *fashionista* again." Her uniform of choice nowadays consists of flats, jeans, wide belts and white shirts "that make me look very clean."

Lala is thankful that she left modeling when she was still in demand. Still, the first reactions to her career change were negative. "As in, wasn't she a model? Why is she a make-up artist *na lang? Na lang!* Which means they have such a low opinion of make-up artists. Even my mother cried. She said, 'What! You're going to be a beautician! Supermodel *ka!*' But I decided to concentrate on this until I started getting the respect due me." Plus, the fact is, Lala loves what she does. "I'm so in love with my work; this profession will tire of me before I tire of it. They say I look younger. Of course, who would look fresh when you're 5 foot 9 and 105 lbs (her fighting weight as a model)? This career has liberated me so that my worth as a person is no longer dependent on my weight. I've been through that stage where, if your waistline becomes 26, you're kicked out of a show. Now they get me because of what I can do."

Today, Lala is a freelancer and a guest artist at Propaganda Salon. She wants to continue to evolve as an artist, and, with the money she's made, eventually take serious courses so she can get her hands on hair. For now, in terms of trends, she sees "a lot of texture in make-up, with skin coming out, and not make-up as a mask. Work on your skin first." If the average Pinay had to invest in one product in 2003, what should it be? "Lip gloss, to make your lips come forward, even if your eyes and cheeks are subdued. Try those multi-tasking products you can use on eyes and cheeks. And groom your eyebrows, they're the only things that frame your eyes." After all, as Lala says of the make-up artist's mission, "women just want to look good. They're paying you to make them look good. So you help them. You don't change them."

## Super

...from page 3

powers, immediately attracting comic fans. The spacious store area, with its shelves of colorful, shiny books, parade American, Japanese and even local titles. "We made it a conscious effort to carry Philippine titles as well," Katya reasons. Aside from the mainstream lines from Marvel and DC, CCHQ also stocks an impressive array of indie titles as well as shelves devoted to specific authors. "The Neil Gaiman titles are the bestsellers," Katya says of the creator of the critically acclaimed "Sandman" series. One look at the Alan Moore shelf and one realizes: these girls know their stuff, all right.

The store draws a very mixed clientele: young and old, male and female. "And we're very happy about that," Katya says of their diverse customers. "At first, the guys didn't think we knew our stuff because we were girls and people have a misconception that comic books were only for guys," Tin smiles. "But then they talk to us and they realize we know a lot, too." Katya adds that they have learned a lot from talking to their customers. "And that's what's different about us, I guess, we really talk and interact with our clientele." Both add that because they graduated from arts-related courses, they've had to learn their business on their feet.

Yet the two easily admit that they're homebodies. "I think it comes from our being Ilonggo," Tin laughs. "We still keep country hours. We wake up at five and go to bed by nine." Another surprising fact about them considering how much they talk to their clients: "We're very shy."

Having come from a closely-knit family, they wish they had more time so they could go back to another lost passion: watching plays. "I'd like to think we're very laid-back people," Tin says of life in the big city compared to their life back in Iloilo.

Running the store is hard work and the two really put in long hours all week. "We love it, though," Tin smiles. "I don't think it's possible to be bored in a store like this," Katya says.

All this is part of a plan—the sisters have always wanted to own their own business and now they have one, a hobby turned into a thriving concern. As CCHQ nears its first anniversary on February 1, there are many targets—paying back that loan, perhaps, even expansion. "We're really in it for the long term," Katya enthuses, "and we hope to pursue bigger things in the future." Indeed, for Katya and Tin Cheng Chua, the comic book adventure continues.

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*CCHQ is located at the third floor, FBR Arcade, Katipunan Avenue, QC. For inquiries, call 433-0898 or email kcc@cchq.com.ph.*

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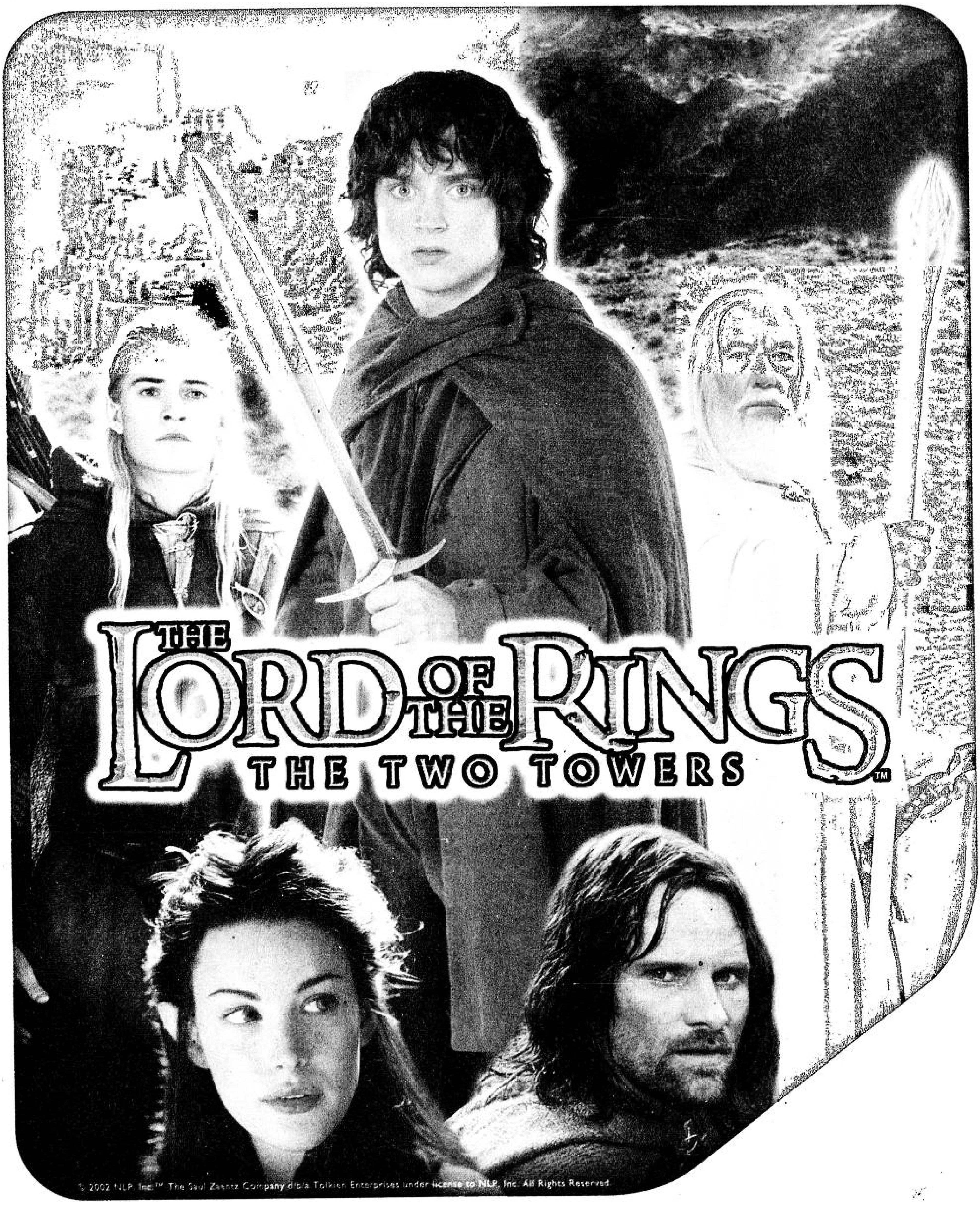
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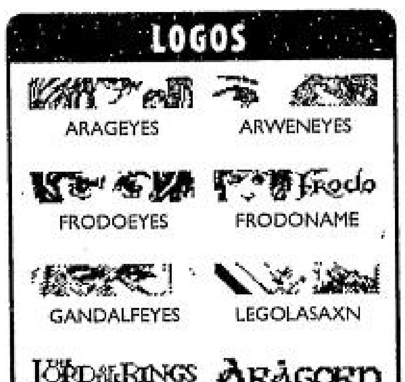
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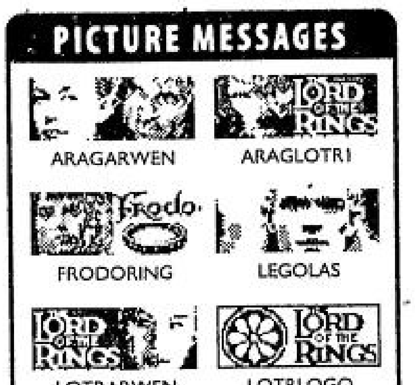
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